THE CASE

for a

BIBLICAL CREATION

PJ Stassen

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PJ Stassen
Centurion
SOUTH AFRICA

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Dedicated to

J.S. (Hannes) Labuschagné

(b. 1916)

Remember those leading you, who have spoken to you the Word of God, whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conduct:
Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever.

[Hebrews13:7-8MKJV]

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1. E-Sword.net. Online.
2. Sources referenced (Formal & Anecdotal).
3. Bible (Old & New Testament). *King James Version* & *Modern King James Version*. E-Sword.net.
4. Recommended Books List
5. Decimal point: Where figures are used, the author's 'decimal separator' of choice is the decimal point, not the comma.

DISCLAIMER

This author believes that, God being omnipotent, it is entirely possible that God could have created the Cosmos in six ordinary weekdays of 24-hours each about 6 000 years ago; this is also the position from which this author reasons and operates. For the same reason this author also believes that God (being omnipotent) could also have created the Cosmos in 13.8 billion years as some believe. God can do anything ... period.

However, it must be noted that this author does not believe that God would have created the Cosmos by means of the tool or vehicle of Charles Darwin's Evolutionary Theory (whether in six zeptoseconds, in six ordinary weekdays or whether in billions of years) since Evolutionary Theory is so clearly in violation of the character, values and ways of God that there is no way it could ever be theologically or morally justified.

This position is the one the reader must bear in mind throughout the text of this book whenever the issue of so-called "long ages" i.r.o. Creation chronologies comes up.

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24 March 2024.

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INTRODUCTION

They say that atheists are human beings with a spiritual problem, while Christians are spiritual beings with a human problem, so therefore it does not come as a surprise when people differ on issues pertaining to Creation, our human origins or our final destiny as a species.

For instance, while atheists are puzzled by Christians' insistence on a virgin birth for Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, Christians are puzzled by the atheists' insistence on a virgin birth for the Cosmos by the pseudo-scientific, pantheistic spirit of the dumb, brainless, random and accidental fumblings of 'Evolution'. Whereas atheists are intrigued by the Christians' fear of God and aversion to the Dark (Satan), Christians are intrigued by the atheists' fear of (i.e., reverence for) Darwin and aversion to the Light (Jesus Christ).

Also, it has been known for citizens in the Orient to be harassed and persecuted for slandering the Emperor, while those who criticise Darwin are dismissed as harmless eccentrics. In the West, however, citizens have been known to be harassed and persecuted for criticising Darwin (they lose their jobs, forfeit research grants and are ridiculed in science journals) while those who criticise the Emperor (e.g., the King, President or Prime Minister) are dismissed as harmless, albeit irritating, political apostates.

Atheists are known for the outlandish ideas they entertain on how the world purportedly (miraculously, randomly and by sheer serendipitous accident) has emerged out of the proverbial blue "billions of years ago" without the help, assistance, or intervention of a Creator, Supreme Being or Intelligent Designer of any kind. On the other hand, Christians adhere to the principle that God (the august YHWH or Yahweh and 'I Am' of Moses & Mt. Sinai) created the Heaven and Earth through His Son, Jesus Christ (worthy of worship) whom He has given as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, the central message of the Bible, e.g.:

> "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him."
>
> [Hebrews1:1-6MKJV].

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Stupefyingly, the atheists will, for instance, without reference to God or the Bible, spend years trying to figure out the mysteries of the Cosmos, reminiscent of an adult novice playing with Professor Rubik's famous cube and spending hours on end trying just about every proverbial trick in the book to arrive at the solution but to no avail, eventually only to capitulate to give it up for a bad job. Then, along comes a 10-year-old with freckles, wires in his teeth and a baseball cap on his head (put on backwards) only to solve the problem within a matter of minutes!

Christians have learnt that faith unlocks understanding, and all the sceptics and atheists must do is to, like a little child, kneel at the feet of the YHWH (Yahweh, Jehovah) of Mt. Sinai and confess Jesus Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the world for the Light of Truth to also dawn for them.

Be that as it may, when Biblical (Young Earth) creationists and Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists, all Christians, thus clash, many difficulties about the historicity and authority of Scripture usually arise, for Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists stubbornly insist that God has used 'Evolution' as a tool through which to create and still manage and maintain the Universe, while Biblical (Young Earth) creationists stubbornly insist that God is quite capable of creating a Universe in any which way He pleases, i.e., whether over a span of "13.8 billion years" *(sic)* or in six ordinary days of 24 hours each about 6 000 years ago ... after all, God is supposed to be omnipotent, isn't He?

The Old Earth creationists' (knee jerk) reaction could for instance typically be, "But, the Cosmos looks so old!" Now, how they can know that the Cosmos looks old is beyond me ... they don't even know what an old Cosmos is even supposed to look like. For instance, for all we know, any anatomist, medical doctor, anthropologist, a journalist from the Wall Street Journal or a beautiful Hollywood actress, beamed by a time machine into the Garden of Eden on the sixth day of Creation Week, would probably have described Adam, a few hours after his creation, as, "A robust, healthy, handsome, virile male about 30 years old!" As for Eve, the men in the party's reaction would probably have been, "Wow man!" (Hence 'woman', satirically speaking); their simply would have been no way that anyone could or would have known that Adam and Eve, in that moment, were only a few hours old, the logical inference being that, when God first created, He must have created mature prototypes, not embryos (so the chicken, not the egg, must have come first).

This book is not an academic treatise on (for instance) 'Intelligent Design'; in fact, I have ventured to assume intelligent design, between us Christians and by an Intelligent Designer, as a given, for as far as I am concerned, intelligent design in nature is so obvious that any debate about the issue appears to me as a gross insult to God. I consider the demand from the corner of the atheists for Christian apologists to present "credible evidence" for intelligent design in nature and of an Intelligent Designer (so overwhelmingly obvious) a staggering flaw in their mental make-up; the person who cannot see intelligent design in nature either has no soul or otherwise is a pathological denialist. There anyway probably are thousands of books available on that topic and also as many such websites on the Internet. However, readers are welcome to browse the 'Recommended Books' section (Attachment H) where all kinds of topics, it would appear, are liberally listed.

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So, whereas the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists argue from the materialistic point of departure that modern Christians should "follow the science" and dismiss the miraculous from the Bible as either poetry or reckless hyperbole (as the metaphorical fruits of millenniums of Jewish traditions, folklore and myth) and, that such miracles, especially an ordinary six-day Creation about 6 000 years ago, certainly are not supported or explained by contemporary physics and science, Biblical (Young Earth) creationists argue from the point of departure that the Bible is a transcendant Book written by a transcendent God with a transcendent dynamic of which the content, especially the supernatural element, demands to be transcendently treated in every respect where transcendently intended, and, that the miracles of the Bible should thus be accepted on face value since the transfinite God (more than!) transcends the Laws of Nature and contemporary physics and science. After all, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the anticipated advent of the New Heaven and the New Earth are going to be as transcendent as it could ever get; so, how are the materialists and naturalists ever going to wish that away, or, how are their "contemporary science and physics"ever going to explain that?

Nobody would argue the fact that the fields of physics and science have changed phenomally over the past centuries; so, who knows how phenomally physics and science may still change over the next hundreds of years to come, time allowing. The naturalists' (and those Christians following a naturalist approach to Biblical miracles) biggest error probably is the fact that they merrily think they have 'arrived' in terms of the fields of physics and science in general, i.e., that there will no longer be anything new to discover or learn. Bear in mind that Jesus Christ changed water into wine, multiplied the loaves and fishes, walked on the Sea of Galilee, commanded the wind to be still and raised people from the dead with complete disregard for the Laws of Nature and His day's contemporary physics and science.

This is the kind of God we revere, respect and follow.

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1 March 2024□

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Chapter 1

THE DEBATE DEFINED

Faith is believing in advance what will make sense in reverse

(Philip Yancey
b.1949)

The debate between the (so-called) *Old Earth* creationists and the (so-called) *Young Earth* creationists rages on. Had the debate been between atheists and theists, it would have been easy, uncomplicated and simple, but, this one is different, like an argument between Abel and Cain, brother against brother. The only problem is, not only are Abel and Cain, metaphorically speaking, arguing, but, to complicate things even further, none of the 'combatants' are realy sure which one is Abel and which one is Cain, with each one viewing the other's sacrifice as suspect tender. Or, maybe both could be Abel, only with the dispute focusing on exactly 'how much' or 'to what extent' Abel.

1. The Miracle of the Cosmos

The parties (the Young Earth and Old Earth creationists) are confident only of the fact that both are Christians who believe in God; at least they do not support the point-of-departure of Atheism which has been exposed as a non-starter religion years ago from the days of Job, Moses and Abraham. For instance, were the atheist ever proved to have been 'right', he would only have won the 'nothing' (death-after-death) he had believed in for so long; were the atheist ever proved to have been 'wrong', he would only have lost the 'something' (Salvation, Eternal Life) he had refused to believe in for so long. So, no matter which way one looks at it, the atheist always loses.

To settle the dispute between the two schools of thought under discussion, I have, however, decided to redefine the current debate by adapting the categories

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to fit the theories, e.g., *Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism* and *Biblical (Young Earth) Creationism.*

2. Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism

The rationale for this is the fact that *Old Earth* or *Darwinian* creationists have bought into the Darwinian worldview of a Universe that is supposedly "13.8 billion years"old and a solar system that is "4.54 billion years" old (well, at least until the next revision of the respective ages) in the "follow the science" default mode. I think it would been a fair assessment to say that Darwinian creationists have adopted the model that, they assume, "scientifically" incorporates the *Theory of Evolution* into the *Genesis Creation Account* best in an effort to be able to produce a type of hybrid Creation model that will be, in their estimation, supported and explained by contemporary physics best.

Let's not be naive about the issue: Clearly the Darwinian creationists cannot imagine a Cosmos created six-thousand years ago in six ordinary days of 24 hours each, as, in their estimation, such a "miraculous" Creation Model can certainly not be supported and explained by contemporary physics and science. One cannot help but conclude that, no matter how Darwinian creationists may pontificate about the virtues of "contemporary physics and science", they have fallen hook, line and sinker for Darwinian driven cosmology, geology and biology as indisputably valid and true.

3. The Postmodernist Onslaught: Probable Reasons why the Clergy is gravitating toward Darwinian Creationism

3.1 'NO SATAN' THEOLOGY. A disconcerting phenomenon these days is how so many postmodernist churches and denominations are opting for a Darwinian creation, and specifically, opting for a "No-Satan theology". So, without trying to glorify the king of darkness, I must in all sincerity stress where such movements are going skew by showing that Satan is an adversary that actually exists for Christians to reckon with. For instance:

- Jesus never lied [John3:12; 8:46].

- The same Jesus who said there is God and a Heaven also said that there was a Hell and a Satan. If we must expunge Hell and Satan from the Biblical narrative (like certain denominations had already done) we must be consistent and expunge God and Heaven from the Biblical narrative too. [Matthew5:22,29,30; 10:28; 11:23; 16:18; Luke12:5].

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- If not Satan, who did Jesus see fall from Heaven like "lightning"? [Luke10:18].

- If not Satan, who entered Judas on the night of his betrayal of Jesus? [Luke 22:3].

- If not Satan, who beguiled Eve to sin in the Garden of Eden and tempted Jesus in the wilderness? [Genesis3:1-5; Matthew4:1].

- If not Satan (among others) who is it that will be thrown into the Lake of Fire in the Book of Revelation? [Revelation19:20; 20:10,14,15; 21:8].

- If not from Satan, where do the demons come from? [James2:19; 1Corinthians10:20,21; 1Timothy4:1].

- If the existence of Hell, Satan and demons have to be interpreted metaphorically or poetically, then we must be consistent and interpret the existence of Heaven, God and angels also metaphorically or poetically, which will render the Holy Scriptures emasculated and theologically impotent, i.e., doctrinally totally obsolete for Evangelical Christianity (exactly what Satan and his hordes of demons probably want!).

My submission is that God has probably created Satan with a specific purpose; also referred to as the 'Destroyer', Satan probably was created to destroy. This is borne out in Scriptures like John1:3; John10:10; Isaiah54:6. It is no coincidence that both Judas Iscarioth and the Anti-Christ are referred to as the 'Son of Perdition' [Revelation17:8,11; 2Thessalonians2:3; 1Timothy6:9; John17:12].

Do the math. When Jesus told the Pharisees that their "father" was the "Devil", was He lying? [John8:39-45]. If so, then Jesus Christ Himself would be the worst of liars in all of history for lying about such a thing.

3.2 SHEPHERDS SCATTERING THE SHEEP. The postmodernist movement, the 'Jesus Seminar' (in the RSA: 'Nuwe Hervormers'), subscribe (in summary) to the absurd basic tenets mentioned below in paragraph 3.4, i.e., tenets that have no connection with New Testament reality, as we know it, at all. It demonstrates the types of movements regular, sincere, and well-meaning Christians may get involved with once they lose faith in the integrity of the Biblical narrative. Writes Wikipedia.

"The Jesus Seminar was a group of about 50 critical biblical scholars and 100 laymen founded in 1985 by Robert

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> *Funk ... Members of the Seminar used votes with colored beads to decide their collective view of the historicity of the deeds and sayings of Jesus of Nazareth. They produced new translations of the New Testament and apocrypha to use as textual sources."*
>
> [Wikipedia, 'Jesus Seminar'].

3.3 RAISING RED FLAGS. The very publishing of 'five gospels' (incorporating the 'Apocrypha'!) to replace the four gospels of the Evangelical Church as textual sources already raises a red flag the height of the Eiffel Tower: Did they really think that the august YHWH or I AM! of Mt. Sinai didn't know how to produce a reliable Bible for the modern Church lasting two millennia, or was God playing a cruel joke on His "flock of believers" when He said,

> "The Words of Jehovah are pure Words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."
>
> [Psalm12:6KJV].

3.4 PLAYING WITH COLOURED BEADS. In a guessing-game reminiscent of a bored high-school volley-ball team playing a board game, these apostate geniuses used an ingenious voting system to evaluate the authenticity of about 500 statements and events with their opinions (!) to indicate the degree of confidence that a saying or act of Jesus of Nazareth from the Gospels' narrative was or was not authentic depicted by coloured beads!

- **RED beads:** Indicated the voter 'believed' Jesus did say the passage quoted, or something very much like the passage. [3 points].

- **PINK beads:** Indicated the voter 'believed' Jesus probably said something like the passage. [2 points].

- **GREY beads:** Indicated the voter 'believed' Jesus did not say the passage, but it contains Jesus' ideas. [1 point].

- **BLACK beads:** Indicated the voter 'believed' Jesus did not say the passage; it comes from later admirers or a different tradition. [0 points].

[Wikipedia. *Jesus Seminar.* Online].

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4. Results of the 'Jesus Seminar' odd decisionmaking ritual

Wikipedia writes:

> *"In 1998 the Jesus Seminar published The Acts of Jesus: The Search for the Authentic Deeds of Jesus. To create the material for this book, they voted on the individual acts of Jesus as recorded in the gospels, much as they'd previously voted on the individual sayings attributed to him."*

So, according to the 'Jesus Seminar':

- *"Jesus of Nazareth was born during the reign of Herod the Great.*
- *"His mother's name was Mary, and he had a human father whose name may not have been Joseph.*
- *"Jesus was born in Nazareth, not in Bethlehem.*
- *"Jesus was an itinerant sage who shared meals with social outcasts.*
- *"Jesus practised faith healing without the use of ancient medicine or magic, reviewing afflictions, we now consider psychosomatic.*
- *"He did not walk on water, feed the multitude with loaves and fishes, change water into wine or raise Lazarus from the dead.*
- *"Jesus was arrested in Jerusalem and crucified by the Romans.*
- *"He was executed as a public nuisance, not for claiming to be the Son of God.*
- *"Belief in the resurrection is based on the visionary experiences of Paul, Peter, and Mary Magdalene.*
- *"The empty tomb is fiction; Jesus was not raised bodily from the dead."*

[Wikipedia. *Jesus Seminar*. Online].

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Had an atheist and secular author like Frank Yerby *(The Thirteenth Disciple)* invented this (fabricated) pseudo-Christian twaddle, it would have been understandable; but, coming from 'Christians' *(sic)* in charge of Christian seminaries and churches it screams to high heaven, to say the least. The Bible warns:

> "But even if we or an angel from Heaven preach a gospel to you beside what we preached to you, let him be accursed."
> "He who despised Moses' Law died without mercy on *the word of* two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy of punishment, the *one* who has trampled the Son of God, and who has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?"
> "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture, says Jehovah."
> [Galatians1:8; Hebrews10:28-29; Jeremiah23:1].

5. The Proliferation of Postmodernist Influence

5.1 INTRODUCTION. Do you have the Trojan Horse of 'post-modernism' threatening your church? Are liberal-minded, often extreme, leftist postmodernists trying to force your church to, through courts of law and social pressure, adjust your church doctrine, creed, and articles of faith to accommodate the sentiments and beliefs of the postmodernists? It could possibly, for instance, happen in several ways:

5.1.1 **Politically**. This is where political parties are hijacking churches to accommodate politicians in their rabble rousing speeches during electioneering campaigns. In the South African Parliament, churches and evangelists are banned from reading the Bible and preaching the Gospel in terms of the 'separation of church and state' principle, but, come electioneering time, politicians armed with all kinds of (pleasant sounding, politically perfumed) promises will descend en masse on churches in their mad scramble to get re-elected for another term. This should not be allowed by churches, except where meeting halls are common property (public domain) to be anyway used by all and sundry.

5.1.2 **Commercially.** This is where entrepreneurs, businessmen and women (many of them dishonest 'snake-oil' opportunists) from outside the local church insinuate themselves into the leadership with promises of lucrative rewards, financial benefits, commissions, and kickbacks for the

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leadership in order for them to be allowed to make presentations in churches to market their products in terms of the convenient 'captured audience' principle. A caveat: This, however, does not mean that churches should be denied the right to publish in-house bulletins and encourage home grown arts & crafts type markets in an effort to support their own entrepreneurs and businesspeople from within the assembly, the lifeblood of modern, professional, business-driven churches.

5.1.3 **Philosophically.** This is where all kinds of apologists, motivational speakers and firebrands of note are pressurising churches to be invited to speak to congregants from pulpits about topics alien to church doctrine (like lectures on the benefits of and rationale for Atheism, Agnosticism, Freethought, Humanism, Religious Syncretism, radical Politics, Tolerance of outlandish religious fads etc.) with the noble-sounding aim to help congregants "broaden their horizons". This pernicious habit by the leftist, liberal members of the churches should be resisted at all costs. Ask yourself: Would the Apostle Paul have allowed Herod or some pagan, Canaanite idol-worshipper to come and make speeches from his church pulpits? Who anyway can offer broader horizons than those offered by Jesus Christ Himself through His Gospel of Salvation for all based on faith in the Messiah?

5.1.4 **Theologically.** This is where the worldview and values of movements such as Jesus Seminar (USA), Nuwe-Hervormers (RSA), CRT, WOKE, expediency abortions (Planned Parenthood, Pro-Choice etc.) and the LGBTQ community are being forced on congregations in the name of "progress". When one considers how easily these disputes could be resolved, it boggles the mind how much conflict are generated by the stakeholders involved and parties affected.

5.2 **THE WAY FORWARD.** When, during the middle ages, Christians from the Catholic Church began to revolt against the church, they eventually, through figures like (among others) Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli etc., developed into the Protestant Reformation, giving rise to the notorious Inquisition and the wide-spread harassment and persecution of protestants. My forebears, for instance, have had to flee to South Africa from the Catholic persecution of the 18th century, i.e., from the picturesque little village in Germany called 'Heimbach', to enjoy religious freedom for protestants.

During the last 130 years or so, when some pentecostalist Christians became disenchanted with the traditional Protestant Church and all hopes of change were dashed, it gave rise to the worldwide Pentecostal Movement, which in turn has led to the founding of the Charismatic movement. The point I need to make

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is that it would be unscriptural, unethical, disingenuous, and inconsiderate for anyone from these 'alternative movements' to expect the traditional churches to conform to their ways of thinking and doing things. Trying to use courts of law to force them, against Biblical teaching and Church doctrine, to "postmodernise" by for instance incorporating Darwinism into the Biblical narrative, would add only further insult to injury.

The solution is for such "alternative", "progressive" movements to do the honourable thing and do what Protestants, Pentecostals and Charismatics have been doing successfully for centuries and decades, i.e., to stop harassing the established churches and start their own alternative, progressive movements, churches, and creeds; and, to write their own catechisms according to their views and tastes. Then, at the end of the age, let God be the judge in terms of the classical doctrinal policy statement by Jesus Christ in Matthew 5:19.

6. Apostate Spiritual Leaders

6.1 INTRODUCTION. To take a step closer to the problem: Is your pastor or spiritual leader preaching "another Jesus" or "another gospel"? You will know when your leader is beginning to teach:

- That, as alluded to before, there used to exist some "primordial, pre-chaotic earth" before this earth as we know it. Scripture does not make provision for such an earth. According to Revelation 21:1, the current earth is the *first earth* that ever existed, and the *New Earth* will only be the *second earth* of history. Contrary to what evolutionists believe and teach, I acknowledge only two eras of relevance in history:

    a. GEOLOGICAL: Before and After the Genesis Flood of Noah.

    b. CULTURAL-HISTORICAL: Before and After Christ (BC and AD, not BCE and CE).

- That there used to exist some mythical "pre-Adamite race" before Adam and Eve were created. The Bible clearly teaches that (i) before Adam there was "no man to till the ground" (Genesis 2:5) and that (ii) Adam was the "first man" ever (1 Corinthians 15:45).

6.2 REASONS. The reasons leaders sometimes do it probably are:

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- to appease the atheist-evolutionists outside the Church by trying to sound scientifically fashionable, progressive and *avant garde* in their theology;

- to appease (and not alienate) the 'creative evolutionists' inside the Church;

- to acknowledge and articulate serious doubts about the authenticity and historicity of the Biblical narrative, and, specifically of the Genesis Creation Account, especially where the miracles of the Bible are concerned.

6.3 BACK TO TE BIBLE. Bear in mind: Neither Moses, or Jesus Christ nor the apostles (including the Apostle Paul) ever taught (i) atheism-evolutionism, (ii) creative-evolutionism; (iii) a pre-chaotic earth or (iv) the idea of a pre-Adamite race in history. Jesus affirmed the Genesis Creation Account in the Gospels (Mark Chapters 9, 10 &12; Luke Chapters 16, 20) and His lineage can be traced back to Adam in Luke 3:23-38. Furthermore, Jesus commanded matter (the wind and the storm) and did not need "millions of years" to multiply the loaves and fishes, or to change water into wine.

The parley between Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists and Biblical (Young Earth) creationists probably boils down to a dual primarily over two matters of contention only, i.e., over (i) how the omnipotence of God should be defined, and (ii) over the historicity, authenticity, and integrity of the Biblical narrative (from Genesis to Revelation) involving miracles and the miraculous.

7. Biblical (Young Earth) Creationism

7.1 INTRODUCTION. The rationale for this epithet is the fact that most, if not all, Young Earth creationists will refer to themselves as "Biblical creationists" wherever they operate and roam, and will insist on a Creation Model where the Cosmos was miraculously (so-called) created about six-thousand years ago in six ordinary days of 24 hours each. I think it would be a fair assessment to say that Biblical (Young Earth) creationists have adopted the classical Creation model they assume that closest resembles the gist of what is being taught in the Book of Genesis and as taught in the average Sunday School, and simply cannot imagine a Creation Model where the creation of the Cosmos supposedly must have dragged on for "13.8 billion years", or where the creation of our solar system was kick-started already as long as "4.54 billions" years ago, irrespective of what contemporary physics and science are supposed to be able to accommodate and support or not.

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7.2 CALLING OUT THE DECEPTIONS. I want to make it clear from the outset that we accept that both the Darwinian creationists and the Biblical creationists categorically believe that God (the YHWH, Yahweh, Jehovah of Elohim of Moses and the Ten Commandments) created the Universe; let there be no misconceptions about that; the dispute (apparently) is only about the 'how'. Furthermore must I also here and now categorically state that, according to my definition of divine omnipotency, from God's point of view, there could never be such things as easy or difficult miracles, or big and small miracles. At the risk of coming across as frivolous: I seriously believe that, for God, it would be as easy to create a Universe (any kind of Universe) as creating the smallest known adult insect, i.e., the parasitic wasp, *Dicopomorpha echmepterygis.*

The propensity of some religious people to equate the Christian God (YHWH, Yahweh) with hamstrung, mythical Norse, Egyptian, Greek and Roman gods is a disconcerting phenomenon to say the least; for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (in the Bible referred to as the "God of the gods") nothing is impossible and there is no thing that He cannot do. The Bible teaches:

> *"It is* He who sits on the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in ... So says Jehovah, your Redeemer, and He who formed you from the womb, I *am* Jehovah who makes all things; who stretches out the heavens alone; who spreads out the earth; who *was* with Me?"
>
> [Isaiah40:22; 44:24MKJV].

> "And Job answered Jehovah and said, I know that You can do all, and not *any* purpose is withheld from You. Who *is* he who hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore I have spoken what I did not understand; *things* too wonderful for me; yea, I did not know."
>
> [Job42:1-3MKJV].

> "But Jesus looked on *them* and said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
>
> "And He said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."
>
> [Matthew19:26; Luke18:27MKJV].

7.3 GOD (YHWH, YAHWEH, JEHOVAH) CAN DO ANYTHING. Against this magnificent backdrop of the august attributes and omnipotency of God, we have no choice but to accept that God can do anything; in other words, it is entirely possible (but improbable) that God could have made the Cosmos in 13.8 billion years, and our solar system in 4.54 billion years (as postulated by the Darwinian creationists) in terms of so-called "contemporary physics and

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science"; to deny that is to deny God's omnipotence, and that would be heresy. The reason Biblical (Young Earth) creationists reject this Creation model is that it is totally incompatible with God's character, values and way of doing things, i.e., theologically, morally and even scientifically speaking.

Logically this would also of course mean that it is quite possible that God could have made the Cosmos (the heavens and the earth) in six ordinary days of 24 hours each only 6 000 years ago; again, to deny that again would deny God's omnipotence, and that too would be heresy. So, here we have a dilemma where God supposedly can do anything except, according the Darwinian creationists, create a Universe in six ordinary days of 24 hours each about 6 000 years ago. Apparently, for them, it is omnipotency taken a bit too far and ludicrous beyond comprehension. The deceptions that consequently have to be cleared up here is the situation where any one group will choose to reject the other group's viewpoint in terms of their unique take on what supposedly is *possible* or *impossible* for God to do.

So, as a reminder for Darwinian creationists, some notes on Evolution's 'Hall of Shame': The following popular 'icons' of Evolution were proved to have been either fraudulent, gross misinterpretation or pure daydreaming:

7.3.1 **Piltdown Man.** Charles Dawson's forgery (1912) exposed in 1953 by a team of Scotland Yard detectives and scientists which included Prof. J.S. Weiner, a South African scientist serving at Oxford University.

7.3.2 **Nebraska Man.** Idea developed from one single piece of palaeontological material, i.e. the tooth of a pig (probably extinct).

7.3.3 **Lucy.** Available information, free from evolutionist hype, shows that 'Lucy' probably was just some kind of 'pygmy chimp'.

7.3.4 **Mrs. Ples (Alias 'Mr. Ples', 'Ms. Ples').** An extinct ape with a brain capacity below 'Keith's Rubicon' of 750cc to qualify as precursor for humans. See *'Maropeng: Cradle of Humankind'* below.

7.3.5 **Rhodesia Man.** 'Rhodesia Man', described by experts as "an ordinary, modern human" (so why the fuss?).

7.3.6 **Neanderthal Man.** Ordinary human of probably very advanced age suffering from Vitamin D deficiency ailments, i.e., rickets, diabetes etc.

7.3.7 **Archaeopteryx.** Proved a hoax in 1985 by six of the world's top scientists.

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7.3.8 **Coelacanth.** The so-called "living fossil" or "index fossil" still alive today; the first one caught swimming in the Indian Ocean on 22 December 1938. P.S. What on earth is a "living fossil" ... they call this "Science"?

7.3.9 **Horse Evolution.** Reportedly no serious scientist still supports Othniel Marsh's horse-evolution myth.

7.3.10 **Embryo Resemblances.** Prof. Ernst Haeckel was reportedly dismissed from his university in Germany for this fraud.

7.3.11 **Orce Man.** The ordinary skull of a 4-month old donkey. Evolutionists have become so desperate that they are using donkey-skulls to prove that human skulls have evolved from Ape/Hominid-skulls (Donkey skull > Ape/Hominid skull > Human skull).

7.3.12 **Peking Man.** Probably an ordinary representative of modern man who crushed the skulls of apes to scoop out and eat the brains.

7.3.13 **Oort Cloud.** A theoretical cloud or region in space where comets are allegedly dislodged into the Universe, first described in 1950 by the Dutch astronomer Jan Oort. P.S. "Theoretical" means it doesn't exist.

7.3.14 **Maropeng: Cradle of Humankind.** This money-spinner of an archaeological theme-park near Johannesburg, South Africa has, during the recent worldwide *New Seven Wonders of the World Competition,* featured nowhere in either of the three categories of 'CITIES', 'NATURE' and 'WORLD'. The worldwide court of public opinion has, in other words, dismissed it as a hoax.

8. More Reasons why I am sceptical about Evolutionists' claims

8.1 INTRODUCTION. Do you think it would be reasonable to expect from an individual fruit-fly ('Drosophila') about 22 days old (in a life cycle of say 44 days) to be able to explain to another fruit-fly (in pain-staking detail) exactly what had transpired in nature 941 821 years (almost a million years!) ago?

Well, when a Darwinist (an ordinary member of 'Homo sapiens sapiens') of about 40 years old and with a life-cycle of say 80 years, says that the shark has "evolved" *(sic)* for over "400 million years" into the top ocean-predator it is today, it is tantamount to a fruit-fly trying to tell his fellow fruit-flies in exquisite

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academic detail what had biologically transpired in nature 941 821 years ago, a feat that appears to be unthinkable and impossibly absurd.

This once again proves that Darwinism is nothing but just another suburban religious cult of which the tenets, doctrines, theories, hypotheses, and submissions must simply be taken as pure conjecture and in blind faith. The fruit-fly is nowhere intelligent enough, nor has it lived remotely long enough, to be able to know or have access to such knowledge ... and neither does the Darwinist. That I can say with the greatest of authority and confidence because the Bible teaches:

> "He has made everything beautiful in His time; also He has set eternity in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end."
>
> [Ecclesiastes3:11MKJV].

8.2 EXAMPLES HOW EVOLUTIONISTS DISINGENUOUSLY MARKET ADAPTATIONS WITHIN KINDS OF ANIMALS AS EVOLUTION.

The following are just a few of the many examples how evolutionists claim 'Evolution' in 'kinds' in a most disingenuous way:

8.2.1 THE PEPPERED MOTH *(Biston betularia).*

> *"This light-colored moth became darker after the Industrial Revolution due to the pollution of the time ... the lighter color returned to the population when pollution declined."*
>
> [YourDictionary.com].

Rebuttal. No Evolution across kinds (of animals) happened; in the end the peppered moth was still an insect (a peppered moth). It did not change into another kind of insect or animal. Have you ever seen a non-moth change into a moth?

8.2.2 BRIGHTLY COLOURED PEACOCKS.

> *"Brightly colored peacocks females always choose the male peacock with the brightest colored feathers. The genes for bright features are passed down to male offspring, who also have a better chance of finding a mate and passing down their genes."*
>
> [YourDictionary.com].

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Rebuttal. No Evolution across kinds of animals happened; in the end the peacock will still be a bird (peacock). Have you ever seen a non-bird change into a bird, or a non-peacock turn into a peacock?

8.2.3 CANE TOAD 'EVOLUTION'.

> *"About 75 years ago, the Australian sugar bureau decided to lug a handful of South American cane toads from Hawaii to Australia with the idea that they'd rid the country of the sugarcane-devouring cane beetle. On their new continent, where they lacked their natural predators, the toad population immediately exploded ... these toads expanded rapidly, likely because of several adaptive traits that allowed them to travel faster and farther. When they mate, they pass their longer legs onto their offspring."*
>
> [BusinessInsider].

Rebuttal. No Evolution has happened across kinds of animals; in the end the cane toads were still toads; have you ever seen a non-toad turn into a toad or a non-amphibian into an amphibian?

8.2.4 PESTICIDE RESISTANT INSECTS.

> *"Certain insects will experience a gene mutation to develop immunity to it (pesticides) and those insects will reproduce. This happens very quickly, within a few generations since the generation length for insects is short."*
>
> [YourDictionary.com].

Rebuttal. No Evolution across kinds of animals happened; in the end the pesticide resistant insects were still insects; have you ever seen a non-insect turn into an insect?

8.2.5 FLIGHTLESS BIRDS.

> *"Over many generations, ostriches and emus evolved to have larger bodies and feet made for running on land, which left them without the ability (or need) to fly ... The same goes for penguins, who traded typical wings for swim-friendly flippers over many thousands of generations."*

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[YourDictionary.com].

Rebuttal. No Evolution across kinds of animals happened; in the end the ostrich was still a bird (an ostrich) and the penguin still a bird (a penguin). Have you ever seen a non-bird turn into a bird, a non-ostrich turn into an ostrich, or a non-penguin turn into a penguin?

8.2.6 BLUE MOON BUTTERFLY.

> *"The Blue Moon Butterfly on the Samoan islands was attacked by a parasite, which destroyed male embryos. This changed the balance of male and female but that was remedied within 10 generations. This is because the few male moths that were immune lived to breed."*
>
> [YourDictionary.com].

Rebuttal. No 'Evolution' across 'kinds' of animals happened; in the end the Blue Moon Butterfly was still an insect (butterfly); have you ever seen a non-insect turn into an insect or a non-butterfly turn into a butterfly?

8.2.7 DEER MICE.

> *"Deer mice used to be dark-colored when they primarily lived in the woods. However, a portion of the population split away several thousand years ago and found a new habitat in the sandhills. These deer mice are lighter, having evolved over thousands of years to match their surroundings. Meanwhile, the dark deer mice have been deprived of these light genes and continue to have dark-colored offspring."*
>
> [YourDictionary].

Rebuttal. No Evolution across kinds of animals happened; in the end the deer mice were all still rodents (mammals, i.e., deer mice). Have you ever seen a non-rodent turn into a rodent or a non-mouse turn into a mouse?

8.2.8 WARRIOR ANTS.

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> *"These ants have a chemical signal that identifies their colony. Some ants learned to imitate this signal from another colony, so they can attack a colony and take over. The worker ants will not even realize there has been an invasion and continue to work."*
>
> [YourDictionary.com].

Rebuttal. No Evolution across kinds of animals happened; in the end the stakeholders in the colony were all still insects (ants). Have you ever seen a non-ant turn into an ant?

8.2. 9 PINK SALMON.

> *"Migratory behaviour patterns in animals (ascribed to environmental factors) cause fish such as Pink Salmon to swim from the ocean up freshwater streams to spawn where warmer waters make earlier migrating fish more resilient helping fish populations to hold steady over decades."*
>
> [SmithsonianMagazine.com].

Rebuttal. No Evolution has happened across kinds of animals; in the final analysis the Pink Salmon are still fish. Have you ever seen a non-fish turn into a fish?

8.2.10 TAWNY OWLS.

> *"With milder winters in Finland, one population of tawny owls showed a significant uptick in brown-plumed owls over the last 28 years, according to a 2011 Communications study. The researchers also saw a nationwide increase in brown owls over the last 48 years. It makes sense that natural selection might favor brown coloration: With less snow, brown owls are better at blending in with the surrounding forest, giving those birds a better chance to survive and reproduce."*
>
> [Smithsonian Magazine].

Rebuttal. No Evolution happened across kinds of animals; in the end all the owls were still birds. Have you ever seen a non-bird turn into a bird or a non-owl turn into an owl?

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Debriefing. It is thus patently clear that Evolution across kinds of animals has never been proven and probably never will. The Bible is also patently clear about the 'why':

> "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after its kind, cattle, and creepers, and its beasts of the earth after its kind; and it was so. And God made the beasts of the earth after its kind, and cattle after their kind, and all creepers upon the earth after their kind. And God saw that it was good."
>
> [Genesis 1:24-25MKJV].

9. Understanding the Dynamics of the Miraculous

Generally speaking, the atheists of the world have been known to say that, "Miracles are impossible!" In fact, I have even heard agnostics and some Christians say that, begging the question: Would they rather have preferred "possible miracles"? At closer inspection, however, the following becomes clear:

- Objecting that miracles are *impossible* is as absurd as saying that unlawful things are illegal, ie., stating the obvious. Miracles are *supposed* to be impossible, that is why they are called "miracles" in the first place. "Possible miracles" would never qualify as miracles, but as ordinary, possible, mundane, everyday events.

- Objecting that miracles would be *in breach of the Natural Laws* of the Universe (contemporary physics and science as we know it) would be equally absurd. If miracles must of necessity be defined as those events in breach of the Natural Laws (Physics) of the Universe, then the very existence of such Laws would be a prerequisite for miracles to happen in the first place, for, without such Laws, what could the miracle then possibly be in breach of? And, again, an event not in breach of the Natural Laws would not be a miracle but a possible, ordinary event.

- Without Natural Laws (Physics), i.e., the rules of which miracles are in breach of, everything would be possible and there could be no miracles to speak of. The Natural Laws (Physics) of the Universe thus serve the important purpose of helping us to recognise a miracle when we see one; i.e., to enable us to distinguish between an ordinary, possible, everyday event and a truly miraculous (whether an impossible or improbable) one. Anecdotally speaking, many miracles described as "impossible" are actually only "improbable" ones where the odds stacked against them have been

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miraculously defied. Do the math: In an imperfect world such as ours, the total absence of Natural Laws would prohibit or preclude nothing and everything would be possible by default; so, what sense would such things as "possible miracles" then make? I reiterate ... miracles are *supposed to be impossible,* so get over it, Mr. Atheist and Mr. Agnostic.

10. The most remarkable miracle in the Saga

10.1 EASY VS. DIFFICULT MIRACLES. The question that now need to be asked are, what makes Darwinian creationists (so paradoxically) think that, creating a Cosmos in 13.8 billion years and a solar system in 4.54 billion years would be any easier for God to do than creating a Universe in six ordinary days of 24 hours each about 6 000 years ago? Have we not reached a consensus that God can do anything, and that there are no such things as big, small, difficult or easy miracles from God's viewpoint?

Cosmologists and Darwinian creationists all appear to make this same error, i.e., of assuming that God has created this Cosmos from inside of this Cosmos in terms of and in accordance with the rules (Natural Laws, physic, sciences) governing this Cosmos. Obviously, and on the contrary, the Cosmos must have been conceived from outside the ambit of the rules that govern this Universe, i.e., from some remote kind of 'Divine Cyberspace', because God sits outside of time, space and matter as we know it and, when He spoke the Cosmos into existence, the Natural Laws as we know it did not, up to that moment, yet exist. Satirically speaking, what would be easier for a gourmet chef to do: To prepare a *Consommé* (A slowly simmered, clear soup made from meat, tomato, egg whites and stock) for his patrons (i) in 90 minutes or to prepare it (ii) in 90 years?

Obviously in 90 minutes, for, preparing such a dish in 90 years would be impossible and impractical to do. But, this analogy is admittedly flawed, for God, unlike the gourmet chef, sits outside of time, matter and space as we know it and is not constrained by the shackles of the calendar, old age and time (or by the demands and expectations of "clientele"); He has an infinity of years at His disposal to create Universes in, whether in 3.8 billion years or in six ordinary days of 24 hours about 6 000 years ago.

10.2 THE MOST REMARKABLE FEAT. Here is the most remarkable miracle of the saga: When a Biblical creationist says that God has created the Universe in "six ordinary days of 24 hours each about 6 000 years ago", he is saying that this earth of ours has been orbiting the sun at (currently) 107 000 kph and travelling the Universe faultlessly like clockwork for 6 000 years since its

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inception in Genesis Chapter One *without any accidents, collisions with other planets or any summonses for reckless flying;* admittedly, this is one heck of an accomplishment.

However, when the Darwinian creationist says that the earth is "4.54 billion years" old, he is saying that this earth has been orbiting the sun at (currently) 107 000 kph and travelling the Universe faultlessly like clockwork for 4.54 billion years since it inception in Genesis Chapter One *without any accidents, collisions with other planets or any summonses for reckless flying;* don't the Darwinian creationists (and the atheists) thus realise that, by saying this, they are enhancing the Creation miracle (of the *Young Earth* creationist) a zillionfold? That is to say, should the Darwinian creationist's propensity for *Easy vs. Difficult Miracles* ever be accepted.

Any smart engineer, astronomer or physicist, with a good calculator, will be able to calculate the distance such an earth must have travelled for 4.54 billion years in its orbit around the sun, non-stop and without a single mistake: *4.54 billion years x Average kms/miles travelled per year = Total kms/miles travelled in its orbit around the sun (i.e., 4.54 000 000 000 years* ***x*** *940 000 000 kms/584 000 000 miles per year).*

10.3 A YOUNG EARTH CREATION TO DIFFICULT FOR GOD? Taking the abovementioned "feat" into consideration, why should a Creation in six ordinary days of 24 hours each (about 6 000 years ago) be considered an insurmountable ideological obstacle for an omnipotent God? Shouldn't the abovementioned (suggested) phenomenon be considered "a far greater miracle" than the miracle where the earth has travelled the same route without a single error for only 6 000 years x 940 000 000 kms/584 000 000 miles? Be that as it may, whether an Old Earth or a Young Earth Creation, this author nevertheless concedes that anything and all things are possible for God, categorically stated for the record as follows:

> *The God of Israel (and Commander of Heaven and Israel's Armies) is capable of not only creating a Cosmos in 13.8 billion years (although not by means of 'Evolution') but also exceeding abundantly capable of creating a Cosmos in six ordinary days of 24 ours each about 6 000 years ago. If He, presumably with an I.Q. the equivalent of INFINITY^{Infinity} (Infinity to the power of Infinity), were not capable of either one of the two scenarios, He would not be God. Obviously, as a Biblical (Young Earth) creationists, I will favour a Creation Model of a creation in six days of 24 hours each about 6 000 years ago for the simple reason that God is*

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omnipotent, can do anything and it is the model best supported by the Genesis Creation Account.

11. The Biblical Miracles: The Elephant in the Room

11.1 THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM. It would, I believe, be a fair assessment to say that Darwinian creationists, by and large, have accepted, it would appear, the Darwinist take on natural history as taught in Evolutionary Theory, having decided "to follow the science", no doubt. As alluded to before, there is no guarantee that so-called contemporary ("modern") science, or physics as we know it, will not change over the decades and centuries to come; surely physics is going to look different in a 100 or 1000 years from now, or have we as a researching species "arrived"?

Taking into consideration the fact that scientists have conceded that they know only 5% of what is going on in the entire Universe and with the rest (95%) described as "undetectable by scientific instruments dark matter and dark energy", how confident can anyone today be of how the world must have emerged out of the nothing* from the remote, timeless, spaceless and matterless past?

*Bearing in mind that *empty space* (a so-called vacuum, if vacuums indeed exist) is not *nothing;* with the word 'nothing' is meant also the complete absence also of 'empty space' that made up the Cosmic void just before Creation Week.

11.2 THE DARWINIAN CREATIONISTS' DILEMMA. The Darwinian creationists have arrived at a juncture in history where the following dilemma is threatening to upset their worldview applecart: On the one hand they are attempting to write off the Genesis Creation Account and all the miracles of the Bible (Old Testament/Hebrew Bible and New Testament) as legends and myths from Jewish folklore supposed to be metaphorically, figuratively or poetically understood, interpreted and explained; on the other hand are they hardpressed to accept the virgin birth of Christ, the divine status of Christ as the Son of God, the resurrection of Christ and the Second Coming of Christ (together with all the New Testament miracles) as authentic and valid in order to maintain ther status as Evangelical Christians, which brings them into conflict with their own Darwinian Creationism worldview, because the Biblical creationists will then want to know why they are accepting the New Testament miracles (and divine status of Jesus Christ) as authentic, but have difficulties in accepting the divine status of the Genesis Creation Account and the miracles of the Old Testament?

Were they, for instance, to reject all of the New Testament as culture driven myths to be metaphorically or poetically interpreted, they would have to retire

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into the same irrelevant ideological woodwork that the postmodernists (Jesus Seminar/Nuwe Hervormers) had done, people that already have earned themselves the obnoxiously unflattering epithet of "Christian atheists".

11.3 THE THEOLOGICAL SEPARATOR. Were they, on the other hand, to accept the New Testament miracles (including all the miracles of Christ) as authentic, they would have to be consistent and accept the Genesis Creation Account miracles of Creation as authentic too. They have, it would appear, two different measuring sticks with which, like a *theological separator,* with which to separately interpret the Old and New Testaments, and that while God has solemnly warned:

> "Thou shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in measures and weights, or in quantity. You shall have just balances, just weights, a just ephah, and a just hin. I *am* Jehovah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. And you shall observe all My statutes and all My judgments, and do them. I *am* Jehovah.
>
> [Leviticus19:36-37MKJV].

> "You shall not have in your bag two kinds of weights, a great stone and a small. You shall not have in your house two kinds of measures, a great ephah and a small. You shall have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure you shall have, so that your days may be lengthened in the land which Jehovah your God gives you. For all that do such things, all that do unrighteousness, *are* hateful to Jehovah your God."
>
> [Deuteronomy25:14-15MKJV].

12. Some final notes in closing this chapter

12.1 GOD CAN CALL THINGS THAT DO NOT EXIST. Which of the two scenarios, humanly speaking, thus represents the so-called "greatest" miracle in the saga, and what right does any Darwinian creationist then have to claim that a 13.8 billion years old Cosmos would have been "easier" for God to create than a Cosmos created in six ordinary days of 24 hours each only 6 000 years ago when the Creator, as the Bible teaches, can call things that do not exist as though they do exist?

> " ... before God, whom he believed, who makes the dead live, and calls the things *which* do not exist as *though they* do exist."
>
> [Romans4:17bMKJV].

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Furthermore, can Biblical creationists then be blamed for being sceptical about the 4.54 billion years hypothesis? After all, would a planet such as the earth, so susceptible to erosion, still have been around today after 4.54 billion years of the relentless, pitiless onslaught of the elements? So, when the Darwinian creationist asks the Biblical creationist, "If your Cosmos really were as young as you purport to suggest, then why does it look so old as if it was created over billions of years?" the Biblical creationist can equally confidently ask, "If your Cosmos really were as old as you purport to suggest, then why does it look so young as if it was created 6 000 years ago in six ordinary days of 24 hours each?"

12.2 PHYSICS/SCIENCE: THE ULTIMATE ARBITER? The Darwinian creationists object to a Young Earth Creation Model probably because, they believe and as alluded to before, it cannot be supported and explained by contemporary physics and science. In reality, however, the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists actually have no idea what a 13.8 billion years old Cosmos and 4.54 billion year old earth even are (cosmologically, geologically, biologically) supposed to look like; similarly, the Biblical creationists have no idea what a 6 000 year old earth really (cosmologically, geologically, biologically) is supposed to look like, for, in both scenarios, there are no prototypes available to compare with or measure against. Scientists simply assume on the evidence of empirical observations, i.e., the decay rates of the elements in the *Periodic Table of the Elements, Radiometric Dating* etc., forgetting to take into account the possibility of their instruments treacherously playing along with the status quo, i.e., by adapting mechanically to its Cosmic environment with the post-Creation delusion of fullblown maturity or "great age".

12.3 IS PHYSICS/SCIENCE NEVER GOING TO CHANGE? Two last questions: Since Darwinian creationists are so averse to a Young Earth Creation, what proof do we have that contemporary physics and science will be able to satisfactorily support and explain a Darwinian Creation indefinitely? For instance, take into consideration how much has physics changed since the days of Thales of Militus (624-546 BC) and Archimedes (287-212 BC) until today? It was nothing less than "miraculous" (or at least remarkable).

Imagine then how physics are going to change in the next 100 years, or even 1000 years or so, time allowing; or, are we naive enough to assume that have we arrived at the pinnacle of all the scientific knowledge that will ever exist in all of Creation always? How come the current generation of scientists, atheists and Darwinian creationists reckon themselves the ultimate generation in the possession of the available knowledge and wisdom of the world?

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It is also possible that the Darwinian creationists will object that they are not rejecting the authenticity of the Genesis Creation Account per se, but that the Biblical Christians are entertaining a too simplistic interpretation of Genesis in order to enable them (the Darwinian creationists) to ideologically (i) accommodate a (so-called) 'Young Earth" position, while at the same time (ii) unfairly and unjustifiably barring the Darwinian creationists from reading a "billions of years" creation into Creation Week. Isn't it strange that, before 1859, theologians rarely if ever argued about the Genesis Creation Account during an era where the contention in public debate of the time probably was more between atheists and theists? Christians of either schools of thought thus have no other choice but to take the Genesis Creation Account (and their particular Creation Model-of-Choice, completely on faith.

As to the issues of "possibilites" and "impossibilities", I will, however, tell you what is totally impossible: The only really "impossible" thing in this entire saga is the fact that, *without faith, it is impossible to please God:*

> "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
>
> [Hebrews11:6MKJV].□

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"We human beings instinctively regard the seen world as the 'real' world and the unseen world as the 'unreal' world, but the Bible calls for almost the opposite. Through faith, the unseen world increasingly takes shape as the real world and sets the course for how we live in the seen world. Live for God, who is invisible, and not for other people, said Jesus in His words about the unseen world, or, the 'kingdom of heaven.'"

(Philip Yancey,
b.1949).

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Chapter 2

DEALING WITH THE GENESIS CREATION ACCOUNT

Shut out every other thought and keep yourself before God in this one thing only ... my utmost for His highest

(Oswald Chambers
1874-1917)

Biblical (Young Earth) creationists cite all kinds of objections to Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism, e.g., putting death and fossils before Adam; the fact that Darwinian Creationism puts birds after dinosaurs; long ages (e.g., 1000 years, millions of years, aeons of time periods etc.) for the six days of creation; the alleged existence of an ancient, primordial earth before the present earth; the alleged existence of a pre-Adamite race before Adam; plants on Day 3 of Creation but the sun on Day 4, a day later (what about photosynthesis for plants in a world without the sun for thousands or millions of years?); the habit of trying to explaining away the miracle of Creation as depicted in the Genesis Creation Account (and all other Biblical miracles for that matter) by insisting that they be metaphorically, poetically or figuratively interpreted, etc.

1. The Problem with Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism

Why do they read "millions of years" into the six days of Creation, but not millions of years into the day that the sun stood still in the Valley of Ajalon, the days that Jonah was in the belly of the big fish or the days that Jesus Christ was in the belly of the earth, etc.? Bear in mind that, when Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionary explains the word for day, i.e., *Yôm (Yome)* as a word that may be used either literally or figuratively, it stands to reason that, for the same price that it can be interpreted to mean "millions of years", it can be interpreted to mean

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"24 hours" (and vice versa). Incidentally, the Bible uses the same Hebrew word 'Yôm' (Yome) for the Creation days in Genesis as it uses for the time that the sun stood still for Joshua in the Vale of Ajalon for "about a whole day": 'Yôm' (Yome).

Evangelical Christians who support Biblical Creationism have taken God literally on His Word when the Bible says that God can do far above ("exceeding abundantly") that which we care to ask or think, e.g.:

> "Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever. Amen. [Ephesians3:20-21MKJV].

I interpret this as meaning that, no matter what kind of situation, scenario, or prayer we may care to submit to God, He is, in principle, able (but not necessarily obliged or compelled) to do exceeding abundantly above all that we care to ask or think. God is, by implication, thus mightier than our "almighty imaginations", since we, created in the image of God, are able to imagine just about any phantasmagorical thing (just try and watch the hideous stuff emerging from the 'Hollywoodwork' these days).

So, lets do an exercise: let the reader sit down in a comfortable chair. Then, let the reader close his eyes. Now, imagine an entire Cosmos, full of dark, empty space, absolutely dark and empty. Suddenly (see, in the mind's eye) the entire Cosmos with its trillions of galaxies light up like a Christmas tree with its lights suddenly switched on in a matter of seconds, or minutes, but, fashionably delayed over a period of 24 hours (and representative of Day 4 of Creation when the stars etc. were created) after that first, sacred "Fiat Lux!" ("Let here be light!") moment when God first spoke LIGHT into existence in the beginning, LIGHT from which every single piece of matter ever probably were to flow. Writes Zhangbu Xu in the online website, Energy.Gov:

> *"Nuclear scientists have used a powerful particle accelerator to create matter directly from collisions of light. Scientists predicted this process in the 1930s, but it has never been achieved in a single direct step. The researchers accelerated two beams of gold ions to close to the speed of light in opposite directions. At such speeds, each gold ion is surrounded by particles of light (real photons) generated by the ion's perpendicular magnetic and electric fields. When the ions graze past one another without colliding, the photons interact to produce electrons (matter) and positrons (antimatter). The idea of creating matter from light stems*

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from Einstein's famous $E=mc^2$ equation, which states that energy and matter (mass) are interchangeable."

[Xu, Zhangbu *Making Matter from Collisions of Light*. Nuclear Physics, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Energy.Gov. 24 January 2022/Online].

Provided science is correct about the abovementioned remarkable properties of light, it would thus appear as if God must have spoken the *Electromagnetic Spectrum* into existence first, and afterwards, must have created the *Periodic Table of the Elements* from this light. The typical (infantile) Sunday School perception among some, i.e., that God must have created light first in order to be able to see what He was doing in the dark, certainly is not what is meant by Scripture; the word 'light' in this passage of Scripture (Genesis 1:3) probably demands a far more profoundly scientific understanding of it than what we originally must have entertained.

The Bible anyway teaches that, no matter what we would care to ask, think or conjure up in our imagination, God would be able to do and do even exceeding abundantly far above that. Considering all these developments in particle physics, why would anyone still doubt the omnipotent God's ability to create something out of nothing, ie., like time, space and matter in a matter of seconds, or a Universe (including a solar system) in six ordinary days of 24 hours each? (TIME, to put heavenly bodies, emerging from this divinely ordained Light, down in time, and SPACE, to have the required space in which to put the matter in).

Even today some cosmologists are postulating that the Universe could possibly be some kind of hologram only with all the trappings and appearances of a solid, physical Universe. This exotic description of the Universe, although admittedly fascinating, may not survive the fact that God describes the heavens as His "Throne" (Isaiah66:1). We will probably never fully understand the (absolutely infinite and infinitely absolute) august stature and divine gravitas of the uncreated Creator of the created Universe (and the miracle of the Cosmos) unless we begin to understand the meaning and implications of true omnipotence. Because of our inability (as finite beings) to grasp the concepts of infinity and of an Infinite Intellect, I suggest a mathematical calculation (a poor substitute I admit and for which I profusely apologise) with which to grasp the idea of infinity and of an Infinite Intellect. For instance:

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Suppose the reader were asked to perform the following calculation:

$$\frac{123456789^{987654321} \times 987654321^{123456789}}{987654321^{987654321} \times 123456789^{123456789}}$$

1. MAN. How long would it take, especially without a modern computer, for a man to establish the answer?

2. GOD. Our first instinct would perhaps be to think that, God being omnipotent, He could perform this calculation in a matter of a zeptosecond, the smallest unit of time there is; but, that would be incorrect. My idea of an Infinite Intellect is where God does not need to make the calculation at all; He would simply know the answer intuitively, the way we intuitively know that 1+1 = 2.

2. How Omnipotent is God really?

2.1 HOW OMNIPOTENT IS GOD? By now some readers may have grown confused, so, the first thing to do is for us to establish how omnipotent God really is. To do that, choose an answer to the question from the options given below:

HOW OMNIPOTENT (ALMIGHTY) IS GOD REALLY?

- ☐ Absolutely and Infinitely Omnipotent
- ☐ Almost Absolutely and Infinitely Omnipotent
- ☐ Very Omnipotent
- ☐ Just a little bit Omnipotent
- ☐ Not Omnipotent at all

I.Q. Check: If the reader answered anything other than *Absolutely and Infinitely Omnipotent* he would be wrong. God is obviously absolutely and infinitely omnipotent.

So, if God is absolutely and infinitely omnipotent, why do we have a problem believing what the Bible tells us about Creation? In the final analysis, it would appear, the debate is not about what *possibly* must have transpired during Creation Week, but rather what *probably* must have transpired during Creation

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Week. With God anything and all things are possible. So, if God, on Day 6 of Creation, could have made a fully grown, male man (Adam) in a matter of minutes or hours with all the attributes, characterisitcs and appearances of a mature person, couldn't He likewise have made a Universe, spoken divinely into existence on the first day, not from the platform of our present Cosmos, but from the platform of the (undefined) metaphysical 'cyberspace' where He exists, lives and operates, with all the attributes, characteristics and appearances of a mature Cosmos of great age?

2.2 DECIDING ON A CREATION MODEL. For those Christians who fear that they may lose their salvation should they per adventure choose the incorrect Creation Model, please rest assured that our Heavenly Father is not that insensitive or callous, for ignorance of the Scriptures does not make us wicked or ungodly; it only proves that we are students on a learning curve in the great university of hard knocks, curious (but often fumbling) pilgrims en route to our Eternal Home. Besides, Jesus Christ has made ample provision for us to differ in our Biblical exegesis, provided we do not denounce or reject Jesus Christ as the Son of God, Messiah of the Jews and Saviour of the world, a Rubicon we must not cross. He has said:

> "Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to destroy but to fulfill.
>
> For truly I say to you, Till the heaven and the earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass from the Law until all is fulfilled.
>
> Therefore whoever shall relax one of these commandments, the least, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven.
>
> For I say to you that unless your righteousness shall exceed *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven."
>
> [Matthew5:17-20MKJV].

3. No 'Primordial Earth' or 'Pre-Adamite Race'

3.1 THE 'PRIMORDIAL EARTH' FALLACY. I am convinced that there could not have been a so-called "primordial earth" prior to the current earth we are familiar with today. What exactly transpired during Creation Week may forever be shrouded in mystery, but this earth that we are living on today definitely was the first earth of history. For instance, had this earth been the

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second earth (allowing for the existence of some 'primordial first earth' in natural history) then the *New Earth* from the Book of Revelation (Chapter One) would be the third earth, which cannot be correct. The beloved disciple, John, writing from the Isle of Patmos, described the current earth as the 'first earth', thus making the New Earth to come (from John's vision) only the second earth in natural history.

> "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer is."
>
> [Revelation21:1MKJV].

3.2 'THE PRE-ADAMITE RACE' FALLACY. The theory postulating the existence of a 'primordial earth' before the current earth where a mythical race of 'pre-Adamite' people allegedly were supposed to have lived is plain disingenuous, probably contrived to engineer some kind of a superficial, Darwinian prehistory for the world in order to accommodate Evolutionary Theory in the Church. There is no way that a race of mythical people and animals could have died before Adam (to account for the fossils found today) because *death* was introduced through the fall of Adam:

> "But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is the type of Him who was to come ... For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all will be made alive."
>
> [Romans5:14; 1Corinthians15:22MKJV].

Besides, the Bible clearly teaches that Adam was the *first man* ever, so any hint of a pre-Adamite race would not only be disingenuous, but plain malicious. The Bible is clear: Before Adam, there was *no man* to till the ground.

> "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all will be made alive ... And so it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living soul,' the last Adam was a life-giving Spirit.'"
>
> [1Corinthians15:22, 45MKJV].

> "And every shrub of the field was not yet on the earth, and every plant of the field had not yet sprung up, for Jehovah God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and *there was* no man to till the ground.
>
> [Genesis2:5MKJV].

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3.3 ADAM WAS NOT MYTHICAL. For those postulating a metaphorical or poetical interpretation for the Adam story, the Bible is very clear that Adam was not a myth or some kind of fable from Jewish folklore. Again, this false rumour about Genesis' Adam (i.e., that he was a myth from Jewish folklore) must have been fabricated to read Evolutionary Theory into the Bible's Genesis Creation Account. Instances where Adam was referred to as a real figure from cultural history abound:

3.3.1 Cultural-Historical References.

"And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years and fathered *a son* in his own likeness, after his own image. And he called his name Seth.

And the days of Adam after he had fathered Seth were eight hundred years. And he fathered sons and daughters.

And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years. And he died.

And Jehovah came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of Adam had built."

[Genesis5:3-5; 11:5MKJV].

"When the Most High divided to the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of Adam, He set the bounds of the people according to the number of the sons of Israel."

[Deuteronomy32:8MKJV].

"For Adam was first formed, then Eve."

[1Timothy2:13MKJV].

"And Enoch, the seventh from Adam, also prophesied to these, saying, Behold, the Lord came with myriads of His saints."

[Jude1:14MKJV].

" ... that the waters which came down from above stopped *and* rose up all in a heap, very far from the city Adam that *is* beside Zaretan. And those that came down toward the sea of the plain, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over across from Jericho."

[Joshua3:16MKJV].

"And He answered and said to them, Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning made them male and female ... But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female."

[Matthew19:4; Mark10:6MKJV].

" ... *the son* of Enos, *the son* of Seth, *the son* of Adam, *the son* of

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God."

[Luke3:38MKJV].

3.3.2 Moral References.

"If I covered my transgressions like Adam, by hiding my iniquity in my bosom, then let me tremble before a great multitude, and be terrified by the scorn of families; *and* I will be silent *and* not go out the door."

[Job31:33-34MKJV].

"But, like Adam, they have broken the covenant. They have acted like traitors against Me there."

[Hosea6:7MKJV].

"And Adam was not deceived, but *the* woman being deceived was in the transgression."

[1Timothy2:14MKJV].

4. Noah, the Ark, and the Flood

4.1 INTRODUCTION. Some Darwinian creationists and postmodernists often will object that the story of Noah, the Flood and the ark were probably also relics from traditional Jewish mythology that ought not to be taken seriously, with many insisting on a purely metaphorical or poetical interpretation of such events, and especially of the miracles of the Bible. The Bible, however, affirms the story of Noah, the ark and the Flood as authentic and historically true. For instance has Jesus warned in no uncertain terms:

"But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not the angels of Heaven, but only My Father. But as the days of Noah *were*, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until *the* day Noah entered into the ark. And they did not know until the flood came and took them all away. So also will be the coming of the Son of Man."

[Matthew24:36-39AOV].

It would also appear as if none of the authors below ever regarded the story of that deluge affectionately known as the 'Biblical Flood of Noah' as mythical and only to be metaphorically interpreted:

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"For this *is as* the waters of Noah to Me; *for as* I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn from being angry with you and from rebuking you."

[Isaiah54:9MKJV].

"And *though* these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver *only* their own souls by their righteousness, says the Lord Jehovah ... though Noah, Daniel, and Job *were* in it, *as* I live, says the Lord Jehovah, they shall deliver neither son nor daughter. They shall *only* deliver their own souls by their righteousness."

[Ezekiel 14:14, 20MKJV].

"By faith Noah, having been warned by God of things not yet seen, moved with fear, prepared an ark to *the* saving of his house, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness *which is* according to faith. ."

[Hebrews11:7MKJV].

"For Christ also once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, indeed being put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit; in which also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, to disobeying ones, when once the long-suffering of God waited in *the* days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared (in which a few, that is, eight souls were saved through water); which figure now also saves us, baptism; not a putting away of *the* filth of *the* flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by *the* resurrection of Jesus Christ; who is at *the* right *hand* of God, having gone into Heaven, where *the* angels and authorities and powers are being subjected to Him ... For if God did not spare sinning angels, but thrust *them* down into Tartarus, and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, being reserved to judgment ... And He did not spare *the* old world, but saved Noah *the* eighth one, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly."

[1Peter3:18-22; 2Peter2:4-5MKJV].

4.2 THE INTEGRITY OF THE EPISTLES. To retain the Apostle Paul's theology as historically viable, valid and justified, *(i) the first person ever must of necessity have been Adam (from Eden) as a 'living soul' and (ii) Jesus Christ must of necessity have been the 'last Adam' Saviour of a 'lifegiving spirit'.* Reject this and we reject everything that the life and ministry of Jesus Christ ever stood for.

"And so it is written, "The first man, Adam (EDEN], became a living soul," the last Adam [JESUS CHRIST] was a life-giving Spirit."

[1Corinthians15:45MKJV].

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The credibility of the Genesis Creation Account hinges on the credibility of Jesus Christ as the Messiah and Son of God; while the inverse is also true, i.e., the credibility of Jesus Christ hinges on the credibility of the Genesis Creation Account. So, it would appear as if not much value should be attached to the monotonous mantra calling for the metaphorical interpretation of the Genesis Creation Account or of the divinity of Jesus Christ; it all comes suspiciously close to a delusional ambition to incorporate the pernicious cult of Darwinism into the Genesis Creation Account.

While it is true that the Book of Genesis was not written as a scientific textbook, it also true that it was not meant to be understood as a book of Jewish poetry either. By the way, how anyone from our era could pretend to know what a 'scientific textbook' from Moses' era were supposed to have looked like is a bit baffling. Be that as it may, the Bible, containing some of the most remarkable literature ever conceived, is rich with poetry, but this is not it.

The infamous 'Jesus Seminar' movement (USA) with its local Siamese twin in South Africa, i.e., the 'Nuwe Hervormers', apparently have 'decapitated' OR 'emasculated' the Genesis Creation Account and the divinity of Jesus Christ by dealing with it as purely metaphorical or poetical at best, and totally mythical and preposterous at worst; they even go so far as to say that Jesus Christ never rose from the dead, didn't die for our sins, will not come back physically as promised and probably was arrested, not because He claimed to be the Son of God, but because He has been making a public nuisance of Himself. How any 'Christian theologian' can spew such undiluted drivel about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and still call himself a 'Christan theologian' must surely be the eighth wonder of the religious world.

Such people should do the honourable thing and leave the Christian Church to join any of such organisations as Christian Science, the Church of Scientology, the Theosophical Society or the World Transformation Movement, all kindred spirits from the same apostatical position.

Any effort to sell us a theory of some kind of a "primordial, pre-Adamite race" that was supposed to have existed before the advent of the Biblical Adam and Eve would solve absolutely zero of our problems as regards the origins of the world and of mankind; it would only postpone our problems with it further back in time until the origins of that so-called "pre-Adamite" race began to haunt us with all kinds of sick explanantions for its origins all over again, like Dawkins intimating that we may have come from some remote, alien planet.

4.3 ENTERS Y-CHROMOSOMAL ADAM & MITOCHONDRIAL EVE.

Scientists have, in the meantime, come up with an interesting new, genetic, take on what we (but not necessarily they) could infer from the 'Genesis Creation Account':

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> *"In human genetics, the Y-chromosomal most recent common ancestor (Y-MRCA, informally known as Y-chromosomal Adam) is the patrilineal most recent common ancestor (MRCA) from whom all currently living humans are descended. He is the most recent male from whom all living humans are descended through an unbroken line of their male ancestors. The term Y-MRCA reflects the fact that the Y chromosomes of all currently living human males are directly derived from the Y chromosome of this remote ancestor. The analogous concept of the matrilineal most recent common ancestor is known as "Mitochondrial Eve" (mt-MRCA, named for the matrilineal transmission of mtDNA), the most recent woman from whom all living humans are descended matrilineally. As with "Mitochondrial Eve", the title of "Y-chromosomal Adam" is not permanently fixed to a single individual, but can advance over the course of human history as paternal lineages become extinct."*
>
> [Wikipedia].

7. A Worldwide Flood

7.1 THE 'LOCALISED FLOOD' FALLACY. Bear in mind that the popularised idea, i.e., that the great Flood of Noah's day was just a localised flood, does not hold water (pardon the pun). God has solemnly promised to never again flood the earth on the scale during the Noah-era generation. In the meantime, localised floods have been plaguiging regions and communities for years, which in terms of the divine promise then would make God a disingenous liar. Fossils in sediment all over the world testify to the fact of the great Flood when humans, animals and plants were inundated with mud and buried in what we know as the 'fossil record' of today, i.e., God's way of documenting the Flood professionally for future generations of palaeontologists to analyse, study and catalogue.

7.2 THE BIBLICAL FLOOD AFFIRMED BY THE FOSSIL RECORD. Be that as it may, had the Flood really taken place historically, the *Fossil Record* today would obviously display corroborating evidence commensurate with such a flood, and that is what indeed has happened. For instance, it shows:

- that animals that lived on the lowest levels were also, during the Biblical Flood, buried in the lowest strata of the sediment;

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- that animals from the same ecological community were buried together during the Flood;

- that animals with the simplest forms were buried first during the Flood as hydrological forces would have sorted creatures with corresponding shapes during such a deluge;

- that invertebrate sea creatures are found in the lowest strata as they lived at the bottom of the sea during the Flood;

- that the fishes were found in higher strata as fishes could have escaped through water to higher levels during the Flood;

- that the first land plants were found where the first amphibians were found as a result of the Flood;

- that amphibians and reptiles were found buried higher up than fishes, but lower than or below land animals; and very few land plants and land animals were found in the lower strata as a result of the Flood;

- that animals and birds, in general, were found on higher levels than reptiles and amphibians as a result of the Flood;

- that herd animals that may have escaped together during the Flood were found together in the same strata;

- that very few birds were found in strata as they probably would have escaped to higher levels during the Flood;

- that heavier, stronger animals were sorted separately from weaker, smaller animals during the Flood;

- that very few people (humans) were found in strata as they probably would have been more innovative in trying to escape from the Biblical Flood.

(Ferrell, Vance BA MA BD [2019] *EvolutionFacts.com: Science vs. Evolution.* Online).□

It is obvious that the worldwide phenomenon of fossils in sediment is more rationally explained by the Flood from the days of Noah than by Evolution.

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"Let the attitude of your life be a continual willingness to 'go out' in dependence upon God, and your life will have a sacred and inexpressible charm about it that is very satisfying to Jesus."

Oswald Chambers
(1874-1917)

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Chapter 3

WHY SCIENTISTS KNOW ONLY ABOUT 5% OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN THE UNIVERSE

Expect great things from God, and great things you will have

George Müller
(1805-1898)

Open any encyclopaedia or scientific textbook and the verdict is the same: Scientists know only about 5% of what is going on in the Universe; the rest (95%) is described as, "Undetectable by scientific instruments dark matter & dark energy". Others describe the unknown 95% as, "A total mystery." Why? In this, the most learned and educated generation in history, why?

1. Reasons why Scientists only know about 5% of what is going on the Cosmos.

1.1 INTRODUCTION. Bearing in mind the many scientists who *do* fear God, who *do* respect Jesus Christ and who *do* cherish the Holy Scriptures (and have nevertheless achieved considerable career success for which they should be respected) I offer some reasons as follows why scientists by and large know only 5% about what is going on in the Universe.

1.2 THEY DO NOT FEAR GOD. The Bible teaches that he who says that there is no God is a "fool" [Psalm14:1; 53:1]. They reject or dismiss God as an obsolete Jewish fable or myth at the risk of missing out on the precious, priceless gems of knowledge from the Hands of the Creator. The Bible says:

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> "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and inscrutable things which you do not know."
>
> [Jeremiah33:3].

1.3 THEY DO NOT HONOUR JESUS CHRIST. They do not honour Jesus Christ, God the Father's de facto architect of the Cosmos and project engineer who created the Universe and who today maintains it by the word of His power.

> "God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds, who being the shining splendor of *His* glory, and the express image of His essence, and upholding all things by the word of His power, through Himself cleansing of our sins, *He* sat down on *the* right of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."
>
> [Hebrews1:1-4MKJV].

The Bible teaches that God the Father would honour those who honour His Son.

> "For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son, so that all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him ... For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has given to the Son to have life within Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is *the* Son of Man ... Then Jesus said to them, When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you shall know that I AM, and that I do nothing of Myself, but as My Father has taught Me, I speak these things ... Jesus spoke these words and lifted up His eyes to Heaven and said, Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son so that Your Son also may glorify You."
>
> [John5:22-23 & 26-27; 8:28; 17:1MKJV].

1.4 THEY DO NOT CHERISH THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. Because they do not fear God, they lack the wisdom necessary for remarkable, breakthrough accomplishments in scientific endeavour. The Bible teaches that the fear of God is the beginning of *knowledge* and *wisdom*, i.e., wisdom which they, in their 'wisdom', have chosen to reject.

> "The fear of Jehovah *is* the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction."
>
> [Proverbs1:7MKJV].

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> "And to man He said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom! And to depart from evil *is* understanding!"
>
> [Job28:28MKJV].

1.5 THEY DO NOT PRAY. Amazingly, some atheists will spend hours, weeks and even years trying to decode the body language and grunts of gorillas and chimpanzees etc. to decode the language of primates, yet won't spend a single minute praying to God seeking His wise counsel. The Bible says that God is a rewarder only of those who believe that He exists and diligently seek Him, and Jesus Christ has admonished His followers that it is always right to pray and not to "faint" (become despondent).

Atheists will find God as soon as they begin to seek Him, since the very effort of seeking God diligently already demonstrates enough faith to please God with.

> "But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."
>
> [Hebrews11:6MKJV].

> "And He also spoke a parable to them to *teach* it is always right to pray, and not to faint."
>
> [Luke18:1MKJV].

2. They have become wise in their own eyes

Imagine a scientist (from the viewpoint of e.g., Darwinism) or a Christian (from the viewpoint of a Darwinian, Old Earth, Creation model) staking his entire career, life and future on an ideology in a world where the scientific community concedes that it knows only about 5% of what is going on in the Cosmos; wouldn't that be a little hasty and injudicious? The Bible says:

> "Because, knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were thankful. But they became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools."
>
> [Romans1:21-22MKJV].□

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The great fault of the children of God is that they do not continue in prayer; they do not go on praying; they do not persevere. If they desire anything for God's glory, they should pray until they get it

George Muller (1805-1898).

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Chapter 4

MAIN OBJECTIONS TO DARWINIAN CREATIONISM

It is wrong and foolish to to try to set bounds to the mercy of God. He who hears the prayer of the young ravens when they cry for food, hears the agonized heart-cries of troubled men who are of more value than many sparrows in His eyes

John R. Rice
(1895-1980)

Objections to Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism are manifold, and may include the following:

1. Main Objections

1.1 CHRISTIAN ARE ADMONISHED TO HAVE FAITH LIKE A CHILD. Christians are taught to have faith like a child and to accept the bona fides and teachings of Jesus Christ like a little child.

> "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."
>
> [Matthew18:3KJV].

1.2 DARWINIAN CREATIONISM APPEARS TO BE DISINGENUOUS. 'Biblical (Young Earth) creationists' usually are, in principle, willing to concede that God *could have* created the Cosmos in 13.8 billion years, for the simple reason that God is omnipotent and beyond time; to deny that would be to deny the omnipotence of God. We do not insist that it would have

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been impossible for Him to do so; we only assert that it was probably unnecessary for Him to have done so.

It would, however, appear as if the the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists will not afford us the same courtesy by conceding that God, being omnipotent, could have created the Cosmos in six ordinary days of 24 hours each. In fact, most of the time they vehemently resist the very idea as preposterous. So, why this strange, unaccommodating intransigence?

In other words, are we to assume that the omnipotence attributed to God by Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists is ideologically inferior to the 'omnipotence' attributed to God by Biblical ('Young Earth) creationists' because they will not, in principle, concede that God could have created the Cosmos in six ordinary days of 24 hours each bout 6 000 years ago? Here we have two totally different definitions of Divine Omnipotence in spite of the fact that, philosophically, theologically as well as scientifically speaking, Divine Omnipotence is supposed to mean *divine omnipotence* ... period.

1.3 DARWINIAN CREATIONISM IS SEEN AS DOUBTING GOD'S DIVINE AUTHORITY, POWER, TALENT & VERSATILITY.

1.3.1 **Introduction.** It would appear as if the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists are placing God in a (physical) space where He is subject to and imprisoned by the very Laws of Nature/Laws of Physics He Himself had invented, whereas the Biblical (Young Earth) creationists are placing God transcendentally in a (transfinite, metaphysical) space outside of the Universe as we know it from where He created our Cosmos independently of the Laws of Nature/ Laws of Physics as we (also His creatures) know it today.

Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism relegates God ideologically to a position subservient to the Cosmos' *time-space-matter continuum driven physics,* while Biblical (Young Earth) Creationism relegates God ideologically to a *transfinite, metaphysical disposition* outside of the Universe as we know it (Paradise?) from where He could have called and still can call matter anytime from nothing (as if it exists) at will. The Bible says:

> "... God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."
>
> [Romans4:17bKJV].

1.3.2 **Jesus Christ defying Physics.** Bear in mind that Jesus Christ defied the Laws of Physics when He multiplied a few loaves and fishes in a matter of minutes (thus violating the 'Law of Conservation of Mass') to feed thousands, which begs the question (the crux of the matter!): Do the

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Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists still believe in the miracles of Jesus Christ, or do they subscribe to the postmodernists' metaphorical or poetical interpretation of the Biblical narrative's miracles as common Jewish myth, legend and hyperbole-driven exaggerations? Did Jesus Christ physically, literally, multiply the loaves and fishes (against the Law of the Conservation of Mass) or not?

1.4 THE PRINCIPLE OF MASS CONSERVATION. This principle, or *The Law of Conservation of Mass,* is defined as follows:

> *"In physics and chemistry, the law of conservation of mass or principle of mass conservation states that for any system closed to all transfers of matter and energy, the mass of the system must remain constant over time, as the system's mass cannot change, so quantity can neither be added nor be removed. Therefore, the quantity of mass is conserved over time."*
>
> [Wikipedia].

The point is that there is just so much mass in the Universe and, as an 'isolated system', extra mass cannot be added, or its current quantity be removed. Mass can change its form (into e.g., energy) etc. but can never be created or destroyed, making one wonder how it came to be in the Universe in the first place. The Bible says*:*

> "In the beginning [TIME] God created the heaven [SPACE] and the earth [MATTER]."
>
> [Genesis1:1MKJV].

In Christianity, and specifically in the Gospels of Matthew [Matthew14:17-21; 15:32-38] and Mark [Mark6:38-44] it is told how Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ (the 'Anointed One') had multiplied only a few fishes and loaves of bread exponentially to literally feed thousands at a rally where Jesus, at the time, was the 'keynote speaker' for the event.

The problem is that science has said that it was scientifically impossible (and thus unlikely) for Jesus Christ to have multiplied those loaves and fishes as claimed by the authors of the two Gospels as the *Principle of Mass Conservation* states that matter cannot be created (or destroyed). It stands to reason that, if Jesus had really multiplied the loaves and fishes, He, in 'breach' of the laws of physics, must have *added matter* to the preponderance of matter already in existence in the Universe at the time.

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This miracle (Christ's multiplying of the loaves & fishes) must either be accepted as authentic or rejected as mythical, which may eventually prove to be the ultimate intellectual 'Rubicon' for the atheist (or the Darwinian creationist, agnostic, and sceptic) to cross. Many from the world of Christendom unable to cross this 'Rubicon' have already fallen by the wayside, giving rise to such bizarre hybrid-faiths as 'Progressive Christianity', 'Christian Atheism', the 'Jesus Seminar' (USA) and 'Nuwe Hervormers' (South Africa).

Also, Furthermore, to add further insult to injury, some scientists have conceded the theoretical possibility that even an isolated (closed) system such as the Universe may have (mysterious) "surroundings" from where matter can be imported from the outside across the boundaries into the (now 'non-isolated') system. That is probably precisely what Jesus Christ probably had done, although we do not have an inkling how such a process would work.

Bear in mind that Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism, just like Atheism, builds its argument on so-called "mythical elements" in the Genesis Creation Account and the situational relativism of chronological time-lines lost and blurred in the mists of ancient geological prehistory (e.g. the "Geologic Column" syndrome) i.e., a Darwinian-like prehistory of which the details must have been "lost-in-translation" and a position thoroughly refuted by Jesus Christ Himself when He affirmed the historicity of the Bible and the existence of Adam and Eve, as well as the existence, of Noah, the Ark of Noah and the Flood of Noah.

> "And He answered and said to them, Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female, and said, For this cause a man shall leave father and mother and shall cling to his wife, and the two of them shall be one flesh?' Therefore they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate. He said to them, Because of your hard-heartedness Moses allowed you to put away your wives; but from the beginning it was not so."
>
> [Matthew19:4-8MKJV].

> "But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not the angels of Heaven, but only My Father. But as the days of Noah were, so shall be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered into the ark. And they did not know until the flood came and took them all away. So also will be the coming of the Son of Man."
>
> [Matthew24:36-39MKJV].

1.5 DARWINIAN (OLD EARTH) CREATIONISTS DENY ADAM AS THE FIRST MAN EVER. As mentioned earlier, the Bible clearly teaches that *Adam was the first man* ever and that, before him, there anyway was no earlier man available to 'till the ground':

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> "And every shrub of the field was not yet on the earth, and every plant of the field had not yet sprung up, for Jehovah God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no man to till the ground."
>
> [Genesis2:5MKJV].

For Christians to dismiss Adam as the first man ever and subscribe to the 'Darwinian Creationism' model of a race of men who supposedly lived aeons ago and that had evolved into the modern people of today is not only heresy, but considered part of the postmodernist, 'Christian Atheism' approach to the interpretation of the Genesis Creation Account.

> "And so it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living soul,' the last Adam [JESUS CHRIST] was a lifegiving Spirit. But not the spiritual first, but the natural; afterward the spiritual. The first man was out of earth, earthy; the second Man [JESUS CHRIST] was the Lord from Heaven."
>
> [1Corinthians15:45-47MKJV].

1.6 DARWINIAN (OLD EARTH) CREATIONISM CHALLENGES THE BOOK OF REVELATION. Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists make a mockery of the promise of a miraculous New Heaven & New Earth in Revelation21:1.

> "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer is. And I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband. And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.
>
> "And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there will be no more death, nor mourning, nor crying out, nor will there be any more pain; for the first things passed away. And He sitting on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said to me, Write, for these words are true and faithful.
>
> "And He said to me, It is done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who thirsts I will give of the fountain of the Water of Life freely."
>
> [Revelation21:1-6MKJV].

Heaven forbid, should Christians have to wait another "13.8 billion years" (less the 2000 years or so that Jesus Christ has been away preparing a place for His redeemed in His 'Father's House of Many Mansions) for the New Heaven to

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emerge or for another '4.54 billion years' for the New Earth to emerge before Christians should be able to ever see the promised New World.

Furthermore, the miracles of the Old & New Testaments clearly illustrated, as mentioned earlier, that the Creator never saw any problem with defying the Laws of Physics to accomplish His objectives in His dealing with the Children of Israel, His New Testament disciples and with humanity in general.

1.7 MEANING & CERTAINTY: DOES 'ABSOLUTE TRUTH' EXIST? The issue of the postmodernist's assertion that there is no such thing as "Absolute Truth"(for the Evangelical Christian, a term synonymous with 'God' i.e., the epitome of Absolute Truth) has already been covered in books and debates by theologians, philosophers and intellectuals far more able than I. A few notes in passing, however, for what they are worth:

- Should the postmodernist be proved correct true and his belief-system valid, then there obviously could not be such a thing as "Absolute Truth". But, if Truth did not exist, then obviously the speaker (postmodernist) asserting or espousing the theory was also himself then not speaking the "Absolute Truth" (Truth); in other words, he then would also himself be lying, as half-a-truth equals half-a-lie. But, if he was lying (when because by his own admission, "Truth does not exist") there must be such a thing as Truth (or 'God', the epitome of 'Absolute Truth') after all.

- The bitter irony, of course, is the postmodernist's very anomolous insistence that there is no such thing as "Absolute Truth", except for the absolute truth of his atheism, or his secular humanism! If it were not so, he would not have defended his cause (obviously founded on a lie) with such religious fervour. The Bible teaches:

> "Jesus said to him, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by Me."
>
> [John14:6MKJV].

1.8 DOES 'MEANING' EXIST? The Bible is replete with teachings and arguments that affirm that, embedded in the *Moral Law (Commandments) of God* (e.g., Hebrew Bible/Old Testament) and the good news of the *Gospel of Jesus Christ* (organs considered the origin of our Judeo-Christian values), enormous 'Meaning' exists. Had it not existed we probably would not have been aware of it; the very fact that we can philosophise, debate and argue about it (and that such a word or term has even been taken up in the dictionary) affirms the

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fact that it exists. For instance, in connection with the Afterlife (Hereafter), the Apostle Paul writes:

> "And according as we bore the image of the earthy *man**, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *Man***."
>
> [1Corinthians15:49MKJV].

*Adam
**Jesus Christ.

1.9 DOES 'CERTAINTY' EXIST? The Apostle John writes:

> "This is the disciple who testifies of these things and wrote these things. And we know that his testimony is true."
>
> [John21:24MKJV].

The psalmist writes:

> " ... The Words of Jehovah are pure Words, like silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."
>
> [Psalm12:6MKJV].

2. Life is about CHOICES

Life is predominantly about a choice between the *Bible (Biblical Truth and time-tested conservative Judeo-Christian values)* and *Secular Humanist (atheistic, pagan, leftist, postmodernist) values,* with all kinds of interesting (but also sometimes bizarre) ideological and theological 'hues' insinuating themselves inbetween, thus confounding the minds of nations all over the world. The Bible warns:

> "Behold! I have set before you today life and good, and death and evil, I call Heaven and earth to record today against you. I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life, so that both you and your seed may live."
>
> [Deuteronomy30:15,19MKJV].

3. Light vs. Darkness

Evangelical Christians reject, in principle, the moral relativism and situational ethics of the secular humanists with the contempt it deserves, since there exists a gold standard, or a moral compass, called the Word of God (Bible) founded on

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the Divine North Star of ABSOLUTE and INFINITE TRUTH as exemplified in the lives, work and ministries of Moses and Jesus Christ, as well as on the faithful priests, statesmen, kings, prophets, men, women, apostles, disciples, scribes and martyrs of the Bible and of history. Life is a choice between LIFE (LIGHT, GOOD) and DEATH (DARKNESS, EVIL). We may not always be capable of controlling our environment or our circumstances (or even our tempers) but we are always, when of sound mind, in control our own moral choices, except maybe where we are rendered seriously ill, demented or disabled.

4. The Magic of Light

Light illuminates, fascinates and enlightens. Even the Bible describes God's glory in luminant terms:

> "Bless Jehovah, O my soul. O Jehovah my God, You are very great; You have put on honor and majesty, covering Yourself with light as with a robe; and stretching out the heavens like a curtain."
>
> [Psalm104:1-2MKJV].

> "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness nor shadow of turning."
>
> [James1:17MKJV].

> "Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."
>
> [Psalm119:105MKJV].

> "I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."
>
> [John8:12bMKJV].

5. Phototactic insects: Positive vs. Negative

Phototaxis is defined as, *"a taxis in which light is the directive factor,"* i.e., the science that explains how creatures respond to light with motion.

[Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary].

Insects can be divided into e.g., positively phototactic and negatively phototactic. Insects use light to navigate, e.g., by the light of the moon; artificial light probably lures them into navigating (a mistake that can cost them their life, as with UV-lights) or confuses them into mistaking it for a food source. Positively phototactic insects, e.g., like moths, are drawn towards

light, while negatively phototactic insects, e.g., like cockroaches are light-averse, i.e., they prefer the darkness.

6. Jesus Christ the Light of the World

Jesus described the battle for the human heart as a choice between light and darkness. He has said:

> "And this is the condemnation, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the Light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who practices truth comes to the Light so that his works may be revealed, that they exist, having been worked in God."
>
> [John3:19-21MKJV].

7. Christians and Light

Christians, it would seem, are (spiritually) positively phototactic and drawn like moths to a flame to the Light of the Gospel:

> "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."
>
> [1Peter2:9KJV].

8. Unbelievers

According to the Bible the wicked and the ungodly are, on the other hand, apparently negatively phototactic ('Gospel Light averse') and drawn to the darkness:

> "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ ... Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ... For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light ... And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."
>
> [2Corinthians4:6; 6:14; Ephesians5:8,11KJV].

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Good scientists will probably all unanimously agree that there is a vast difference between light and darkness, e.g., while (i) the velocity (speed) of light in a vacuum is 300 000 kilometres per sec/180 000 miles per sec., (ii) the velocity of darkness is ZERO (bad choice).□

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What God wants to give you is just exactly what you would want if you knew enough to want it

John R. Rice
(1895-1980)

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Chapter 5

THE SPECTRE OF CHRISTIAN ATHEISM

Prophetic paradoxes concerning Christ abound in the Old Testament and would remain as mysteries if they had not been solved by the appearance of Christ in the flesh

Herbert Lockyear
(1886-1984)

Christian Atheism is defined as follows:

> *"Christian atheism is a form of cultural Christianity and ethics system drawing its beliefs and practices from Jesus' life and teachings as recorded in the New Testament Gospels and other sources, whilst rejecting supernatural claims of Christianity."*
>
> [Wikipedia. Christian Atheism].

Fashions and fads in the Church and religious world come and go, just like the Greeks from the days of Paul who always clamoured to "hear something new". So, I am not entirely surprised to see some people taking this wonky view of Christianity.

1. The Humour of Charles Spurgeon

Charles Spurgeon once made this priceless remark when he said that he was so glad that these kinds of outlandish fads (like the postmodernist's 'Christian Atheism') had the good sense of popping up over time (like in instalments) and not all simultaneously, attributing it to the foresight of God designed to prevent genuine believers from dying en masse from amazement!

Nevertheless, the emergence of this fad now explains the problems we have with some 'Christian theologians' here in South Africa who have joined the postmodernist 'Jesus Seminar' bandwagon and have begun winning prizes from

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our local 'Secular Humanist Society' (the local atheist's club) for so-called "progressiveness in religious thought" (!). However, what they call "progressive thought" we prefer to call "apostasy", "heresy", etc.

2. The tragedy of the 'lukewarm Christian', 'another Jesus', 'another spirit' & 'another gospel'

I am inclined to have far more respect for the genuine, serious atheist that rejects faith-in-God on principle, for at least one knows where one stands with him, but as far as 'Christian atheists' are concerned I think that, with their vacillating between the true Gospel and their fake 'imitation-leather' gospel ('another Jesus'; 'another spirit', 'another gospel') they are flirting with terrible danger in the murky pseudo-theological mud of fashionable, but, however, lethal philosophical stupidity. The Bible says:

> "So because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth."
>
> [Revelation3:16MKJV].

> "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth ANOTHER JESUS, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive ANOTHER SPIRIT, which ye have not received, or ANOTHER GOSPEL, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."
>
> [2Corinthians11:3-4MKJV].

3. The tragedy of Philosophical Stupidity

Here's the problem: Why would any sane, literate person of even average education (let alone of advanced education sporting post-graduate degrees from 'Ivy League' universities) choose as his moral role-model, spiritual leader or teacher-of-ethics a person who (according to his own special theological model) has:

(i) habitually lied about His divine status and origins

(ii) fabricated His 'miracles' and

(iii) fooled the first century public by claiming what Jesus Christ has consistently claimed about Himself?

Something in 'Christian Atheism' just does not add up!□

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The more we seek to live in harmony with the indwelling Christ, the more we shall understand the marvel of the prophetic Christ. Revelation is never separable from obedience, which is ever the organ of spiritual revelation

Herbert Lockyear
(1886-1984)

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Chapter 6

HOW CREDIBLE THE RESURRECTION NARRATIVE?

Weak men are apt to be cruel

GEORGE SAVILLE
Lord Halifax
(1633-1695)

Most students of the theological branch of 'Eschatology' (the study of the 'End Times' prior to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as taught in the Bible) believe that we are living in the era that may see Jesus Christ return to planet Earth exactly as He had promised two millenniums ago.

1. Eschatology

1.1 THE VERDICT OF HISTORY. To emphasize the remarkable historical developments in the world of recent times, Lee Strobel, in his book, *The Case for Christ,* cites what he refers to as 'the verdict of history' i.r.o. the prophecies of Jesus of Nazareth (the Christ) in respect of those signs that will manifest as precursors to His Second Coming, with critical questions and affirmations as follows:

1.1.1 "Can the biographies of Jesus be trusted? [YES!]

1.1.2 "Do the biographies of Jesus stand up to scrutiny? [YES!]

1.1.3 "Were Jesus' biographies reliably reserved for us? [YES!]

1.1.4 "Is there credible evidence for Jesus outside His biographies? [YES!]

1.1.5 "Does archaeology confirm Jesus' biographies? [YES!]

1.1.6 "Is the Jesus of history the same as the Jesus of faith? [YES!]

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1.1.7 "Was Jesus really convinced that He was the Son of God? [YES!]

1.1.8 "Was Jesus sane when He claimed to be the Son of God? [YES!]

1.1.9 "Did Jesus fulfil the attributes of God? [YES!]

1.1.10 "Did Jesus (and Jesus alone) match the identity of the prophesied Messiah? [YES!]

1.1.11 "Was the death and resurrection of Jesus a real fact of history? [YES!]

1.1.12 "Was Jesus' body really absent from His tomb? [YES!]

1.1.13 "Was Jesus seen alive after His death on the cross? [YES!]

1.1.14 "Are there any supporting facts that point to the resurrection? [YES!]

1.1.15 "Has the collection of evidence (about the resurrection) really been thorough?" [YES!].

2. Was the Character/Persona of Jesus Christ forged?

2.1 FORGING A 'JESUS'. To the charge (by skeptics) that the historical persona of Jesus Christ simply was too good to be true and must have been skilfully forged by some remarkably gifted individual, one theologian was reported to have replied: "Only a Jesus Christ could have forged a Jesus Christ!"

This irony is actually on par with the irony of proving the non-existence of God, i.e., considering what it would take to prove the non-existence of God (i.e., absolute and infinite omnipotence, omniscience and omnipresence) we have had to concede that, "Only God Himself possesses the required moral gravitas, divine stature, power and influence to ever prove the non-existence of God!"

Be that as it may, during His heyday, Jesus Christ must apparently have been pretty exasperated by the lack of faith among even the academic, theological elite of His time. He told Nicodemus, a Pharisee and ruler among the Jews:

> "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?"
>
> [John3:12MKJV].

Today, when we preach the Gospel, we are (to the best of our knowledge) trying to tell the world of earthly things surrounding the birth, life, person, ministry, teachings, sacrifice, resurrection and divine stature of Jesus Christ, but, if they struggle to believe that, how are they ever going to believe the heavenly things about Jesus Christ in the Book of Revelation and beyond?

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2.2 A SPACE VISITOR. I am convinced that today's academicians, scienticians, naturalists and their resident (postmodernist) theologians are so rigid in the grooves of their antiquated "scientific method" (a system of scientific research reportedly invented 400 years ago) that, should an angel of superior status ever descend on the White House lawns tomorrow (a la, 'The Day the Earth Stood Still') and begin to explain to the president's entourage the true wonders of angelic space travel and of the Cosmos (unhampered by the visual impediments of mindboggling astronomical distances, dark matter, dark energy and the fog of years of Darwinian indoctrination), to beyond what our telescopes can see and scientific instruments can detect, they probably won't believe him and instead have him arrested and dispatched to Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp for interrogation and years of detention, waterboarding and observation.□

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If stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore!

R.W. Emerson
(1803-1882)

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Chapter 7

THE TRIPLE GUARANTEE OF JESUS CHRIST AS THE SON OF GOD

No one can be an unbeliever nowadays.
The Christian apologists have left one nothing to disbelieve.

Saki (H.H. Munro)
(1870-1916)

The Bible has left us some interesting clues (at least three guarantees) by which we can safely deduce the fact of the divine status of Jesus Christ: Son of God, Son of David, Son of Man, Saviour of the world and Messiah of the Jews.

1. Guarantee #1: God cannot Lie

The Bible says that God cannot lie:

> "On hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the eternal times ... so that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us."
> [Titus1:2; Hebrews 6:18MKJV].

2. Guarantee #2. God the Father affirmed the divine status of Jesus of Nazareth on various occasions

> "And Jesus, when He had been baptized, went up immediately out of the water. And lo, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Him. And lo, a voice from Heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' "

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[Matthew 3:16-17MKJV].

> "While he yet spoke, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them. And behold a voice out of the cloud which said, 'This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear Him.' "
>
> [Matthew 17:5MKJV].

3. Guarantee #3. God swore by Himself

Because He could swear by no greater Authority but Himself, God, who cannot lie, *swore by Himself (double assurance!)* to affirm the appointment of Jesus Christ as the Creator of Heaven and Earth and Heaven's de facto Messiah:

> "For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself ... For men truly swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. In this way desiring to declare more fully to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, God interposed by an oath ..."
>
> [Hebrews6:13, 16, 17MKJV].

4. Yankee Stadium and the Foursquare Gospel

4.1 INTRODUCTION: MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL (MLB). Sceptics (atheists, agnostics, postmodernists and even some Christians, etc.) are fond of raising objections against the veracity of the Bible as the Word of God; i.e., objections founded on the so-called "inconsistencies" or "incongruities" in the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and in order to explain the so-called inconsistencies, I explain by way of an analogy with a Yankee Stadium baseball game.

Let's suppose that, in a hypothetical game between the *New York Yankees,* alias the *Bronx Bombers* or *Yanks* (winners of the World Series a record 27 times) and the *Chicago Cubs* (the 2016 winners) four amateur, Church-bulletin sports reporters from separate church denominations, i.e., *Matt, Mike, Liam and* Jack, were despatched to the stadium to cover the game. Some notes:

- Jack was booked in on the Grand-stand Level facing the field, while Matt, Mike & Liam were placed haphazardly all over the stadium, some in the economical class bleacher seats beyond the outfield fences.

- Mike's brief was to submit his report to the sports-committee within 24 hours upon arrival home; Liam and Matt's briefs were to submit their

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reports within 2 weeks after the game, while Jack's brief was to take his time but submit his report within 3 months after the game.

From historical records it would appear as if the reporters (especially the trio of Matt, Mike & Liam) probably have, after the game, exchanged notes between themselves, perhaps everyday over lunch at a sports bar on the premises.

4.3 DEBRIEFING. No doubt it must have been a prolific, historical game, for the sports fans were, for years afterwards, still mulling and speculating over the game in respect of the four bulletin-reports later published, since so many "conflicting facts" have reportedly surfaced in the reports about what exactly had transpired on the field on that momentous day.

Be that as it may, it so happened that, in spite of the so-called "inconsistencies", "discrepancies" and apparent "contradictions" in the four reports, there was an undeniable consensus about one important matter, and that was *the hard fact that the game had taken place and was a fact of history impossible to ever erase from record and/or institutional memory.*

4.4 THE FOURSQUARE GOSPEL. Similarly, the so-called "inconsistencies", "discrepancies" and "contradictions" in the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke (the three 'Synoptic Gospels') and John serve to affirm (and not diminish) the veracity of the New Testament Gospel record.

Do the math: Had all four gospels been identical, then at least three of them would have been totally unnecessary (superfluous) and, on top of that, there would have been a distinct possibility that all four authors probably must have secretly colluded to spin the same fake yarn over what had transpired. The very so-called inconsistencies, discrepancies, and contradictions (incongruities) in the four Gospels thus serve to authenticate (not invalidate) the historicity of the Gospel narratives in the Bible.

5. The Supremacy of God's Son affirmed

5.1 THE THEOLOGY IS SOUND. In order to dispel any uncertainty about the merit of my 'theology', the reader is encouraged to read the portions of Scripture below where the supremacy of Jesus Christ is elaborated upon and affirmed by the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews.

> "God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son [JESUS] whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also

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He made the worlds, who being the shining splendor of His glory, and the express image of His essence, and upholding all things by the word of His power, through Himself cleansing of our sins, He [JESUS] sat down on the right of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

"For to which of the angels did He say at any time, 'You are My Son, this day I have begotten You?' And again, 'I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?' And again, when He brings in the First-born into the world, He says, 'And let all the angels of God worship Him.' And of the angels He says, 'Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.' But to the Son He says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated iniquity, therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness above Your fellows.'

"And, 'You, Lord, have laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the works of Your hands. They shall perish, but You will remain. And they shall all become old as a garment, and as a covering You shall fold them up, and they shall be changed. But You are the same, and Your years shall not fail.' But to which of the angels, did He say at any time, 'Sit on My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool?' Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation?"

[Hebrews1:1-14MKJV].

"Therefore, having left the discourse of the beginning of Christ, let us go on to full growth, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, of the baptisms, of doctrine, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do, if God permits. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the world to come, and who have fallen away; it is impossible, I say, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify the Son of God afresh to themselves and put Him to an open shame.

"(For the earth which drinks in the rain that comes often upon it, and brings forth plants fit for those by whom it is dressed, receives blessing from God. But that which bears thorns and briers is rejected and is a curse, whose end is to be burned.) But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you and things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this way. For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that each one of you show the same eagerness to the full assurance of hope to the end, that you be not slothful, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

"For when God made promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no greater, He swore by Himself, saying, 'Surely in blessing I will

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> bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply you.' And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men truly swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. In this way desiring to declare more fully to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, God interposed by an oath, so that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil, where the Forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."
>
> [Hebrews6:1-20MKJV].

5.2 THE PROPHETIC WINDOW FOR THE MESSIAH TO APPEAR HAS PASSED. Students of Biblical prophecy tell us that, should Jesus of Nazareth ever be indefinitely rejected as the *de facto* Messiah of history, no other 'wannabe messiah' could or would ever be accepted in His place, as the 'prophetic-historical window' for the Messiah to appear has long since passed and such an imposter will have missed the 'prophetic bus' by a little more than 2000 years.□

To believe in God for me is to feel that there is a God, not a dead one, or a stuffed one, but a living one, who with irresistible force urges towards more loving

Vincent van Gogh
(1853-1890)

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Chapter 8

JESUS CHRIST: A FORMIDIBLE SCIENTIST

How else but through a broken heart may Lord Christ enter in?

Oscar Wilde
(1854-1900)

The days of looking at Jesus Christ as some roughhewn first-century carpenter and wildeyed religious fanatic making a public nuisance of Himself performing all kinds of cheap magic in the streets of Jerusalem, while fraudulently claiming to be the Son of God, are over. Once we fully grasp who this enimatic Galilean really was (is), our lives are changed forever; to that thousands, if not millions, of followers, rich, poor, educated or illiterate, today can attest.

1. Jesus Christ: Creator of the Cosmos and the Laws of Physics

1.1 ARCHITECT & PROJECT ENGINEER. The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ has made the worlds (the Universe) by speaking the worlds into existence by the words of His mouth; He upholds the world by the word of His power.

> "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and empty. And darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light. And there was light."
>
> [Genesis1:1-3MKJV].

> "So says Jehovah God, He who created the heavens and stretched them out, spreading out the earth and its offspring; He who gives breath to the people on it and spirit to those who walk in it ... I have

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> made the earth, and created man on it; I with My hands have stretched out the heavens; and all their host have I commanded."
>
> [Isaiah42:5; 45:12MKJV].

> "God, who at many times and in many ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds, who being the shining splendor of His glory, and the express image of His essence, and upholding all things by the word of His power, through Himself cleansing of our sins, He sat down on the right of the Majesty on high, being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."
>
> [Hebrews1:1-4MKJV].

1.2 JESUS CHRIST DID IT. Jesus Christ has (among other things) created the following: Time, Space & Matter; Universal Gravitation; the Strong & Weak Nuclear forces; Electromagnetism; the Periodic Table of Elements; Acoustics; the Galaxies, the Solar Systems, humans and the animal and plant kingdoms. The Bible says:

> "In the beginning was the Word [JESUS CHRIST] and the Word [JESUS CHRIST] was with God, and the Word [JESUS CHRIST] was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him [JESUS CHRIST] and without Him [JESUS CHRIST] not even one thing came into being that has come into being."
>
> [John1:1-3MKJV].

2. The Earth is not 'flat'

2.1 INTRODUCTION. The Bible teaches that the Earth is a sphere suspended in space. The poetic reference to the 'pillars of earth' and of 'heaven' (in the Bible) is a clear reference to the fixed *Laws of Gravity* guaranteeing the integrity of the orbit of the Earth around the Sun.

> "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing."
>
> [Job 26:7KJV].

> "It is he [GOD] that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in."
>
> [Isaiah 40:22 KJV].

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2.2 POETIC LANGUAGE IN THE BIBLE. The references below are examples of poetic language sometimes used to describe dramatic natural phenomena:

> "He raises up the poor out of the dust; He lifts up the needy from the dunghill to set them among princes; yea, He causes them to inherit a throne of honor; for to Jehovah are the pillars of the earth; and He sets the habitable world on them ...
>
> "He who shakes the earth out of its place, and the pillars of it tremble ...
>
> "The earth and all its people are melting away; I hold up its pillars. Selah."
>
> [1Samuel 2:8; Job9:6; Psalm75:3MKJV].

3. God once made the Sun and the Moon to 'stand still' for 'about a full day'

> "Then Joshua spoke to Jehovah in the day when Jehovah delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun! Stand still on Gibeon! And, moon, stand still in the valley of Aijalon! And the sun stood still, and the moon stood still, until the people had avenged themselves on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? And the sun stood still in the midst of the heavens, and did not hasten to go down about a whole day."
>
> [Joshua10:12-13MKJV].

4. God once made the Earth to reverse its course by 10° (ten degrees)

> "And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz."
>
> [2 Kings20:10-11 KJV].

Bear in mind that 10° (ten degrees) represent approximately 1113 kilometres (695 miles) on the rotation-arc (circumference) of the Earth at the Equator which, according to some sources, represent about 40 minutes (4 minutes per degree) on a 12-hour sundial.

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5. The Ultimate Social Scientist

As alluded to before, God appoints the number of stars and calls them by their names. God also heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

> "He appoints the number of the stars; He calls them all by their names. Great is our LORD, and of great power; There is no limit to His understanding.""
>
> [Psalm147:4-5MKJV].

> "He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their wounds."
>
> [Psalm147:3MKJV].

It was as if the Creator was saying: "If I can create, count and name all the stars in the Cosmos, don't you think I can see, count, name and heal every broken heart in the Cosmos too?"□

An old man gives good advice to console himself for no longer being able to set a bad example

John Billings
1818-1885)

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Chapter 9

JESUS CHRIST RECRUCIFIED

It is my melancholy fate to like so many people I profoundly disagree
with and often heartily dislike people who agree with me

Mary Kingsley
(1862-1900)

The infiltrated postmodernist element in the Christian Church (e.g., 'Jesus Seminar'; 'Nuwe Hervormers' etc.) is crucifying our LORD Jesus Christ all over again. Some examples are discussed.

1. Postmodernism

1.1 "Jesus was only a great teacher, and not the Son of God!"

FALSE: Great teachers do not lie and then mislead people about their stature, mission and so-called 'divine powers'. Either Jesus Christ was who He claimed it was, i.e., the *Son of God,* or He was just an ordinary fallible carpenter from Nazareth with all kinds of delusions about His importance.

1.2 "The Bible is only a great guide on morality and ethics, and not the inerrant Word of God!"

FALSE: What kind of idiot would use the Bible as a "great guide on morality and ethics" when the same Bible according to the same idiot allegedly contains "too many errors, discrepancies and contradictions" to qualify as the Word of God?

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1.3 "There is no Hell!"

FALSE: The same Bible and same Jesus who said there is a 'Heaven' also said there is a 'Hell'! Let's be consistent: Redact 'Hell' from the Bible and the Gospel equation the way some wayward 'denominations' inexplicably have found the brazen courage to do, and you must redact 'Heaven' out of the Bible and Gospel equation too; let's be consistent in our doctrines and Scripture exegesis ... we can't have our cake and eat it.

1.4 "There is no personal Satan!"

FALSE: Did Jesus lie when He accused the Pharisees of having the 'Devil', i.e., the 'father-of-lies', as 'father' in JohnChptr8? If He indeed did lie about the existence of the Devil, as alluded to earlier, it would make Jesus Himself *(i) an even far greater liar than the Devil himself* and also *(ii) expose Jesus Christ as one who has the Devil as 'father' too.*

> "They [the Pharisees] answered and said to Him, Abraham is our father. Jesus answered them, If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth which I have heard beside God; this Abraham did not do. You do the deeds of your father. Then they said to Him, We are not born of fornication; we have one father, even God. Jesus said to them, If God were your father, you would love Me, for I went forth and came from God; for I did not come of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do you not know My speech? Because you cannot hear My Word. You are of the Devil as father, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and did not abide in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, you do not believe Me."
>
> [John8:39-45MKJV].

1.5 "Those New Testament miracles were only 'metaphorical' or 'poetical' and did not really happen!"

FALSE: The anecdotal, eyewitness testimonies from the public of the time are overwhelming as evidence for the authenticity of the miracles. Besides, Jesus Christ's *worst enemies* (the Pharisees) have also testified to the miracles, so what better evidence do we need?

> "Then many of the Jews who came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on Him. But some of them went to the

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> Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the chief priests and Pharisees gathered a sanhedrin, and said, What can we do? For this man does many miracles. If we let him alone this way, all will believe on him. And the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."
>
> [John11:45-48MKJV].

P.S. Had the 'tricks' Jesus performed been the cheap street magic or illusions of magicians and charlatans, then surely the Pharisees would have said so; instead, they, steeped in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) scriptures and well-acquainted with real miracles from the Bible, explicitly stuck to the term "miracles", thus affirming Christ's works as authentic.

1.6 "Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead! That story of Christ's resurrection was concocted by the disciples to hide their embarrassment!"

FALSE: What disciple in his right mind with a well-paying 'day-job' would concoct a story that were to later not only cost him his career but also his life as a martyr for his faith, as what probably later has happened to most if not all the disciples? More than 500 eyewitnesses attested to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, a figure far above the Jewish minimum standard of two or three witnesses to affirm testimony as credible.

1.7 "The body of Jesus Christ was stolen during the night by his disciples!"

FALSE: This legend was perpetuated by the (either Roman or Jewish) soldiers guarding Christ's tomb in order to save their own hides after having been bribed with "enough silver" by the chief priests to say so. The Bible says:

> "And as they were going, behold, some of the guard came into the city and declared all the things that were done to the chief priests. And being assembled with the elders, and taking counsel, they gave enough silver to the soldiers, saying, Say that His disciples came by night and stole Him away while we slept. And if this comes to the governor's ears, we will persuade him and make you free from care. And taking the silver, they did as they were taught. And this saying was spread among the Jews until today."
>
> [Matthew28:11-15MKJV].

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Do the math:

- How did the "sleeping soldiers" (!) guarding the tomb "see" (!) the disciples roll back the stone from the tomb to steal the body of Christ without waking up? Do Roman soldiers sleep with their eyes open?

- When they "saw" the disciples engaged in the act of stealing the body of Christ, why did they not apprehend them? Were professional and experienced Roman soldiers afraid of ordinary, unarmed civilians and disciples of Jesus Christ?

1.8 **"Repentance is not necessary; living a good, moral and exemplary life is good enough!"**

FALSE: The Bible teaches the demand for repentance in no uncertain terms:

a. The Gospel of MATTHEW.

"But go and learn what this is, I will have mercy and not sacrifice. For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
[Matthew9:13MKJV].

"Then He began to upbraid the cities in which most of His mighty works were done, because they did not repent."
[Matthew11:20MKJV].

"For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him. But the tax-collectors and the harlots believed him. And when you had seen it, you did not repent afterwards so that you might believe him."
[Matthew21:32MKJV].

b. The Gospel of MARK.

"... and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God draws near. Repent, and believe the gospel."
[Mark1:15MKJV].

"When Jesus heard, He said to them, They who are strong have no need of a physician, but the ones who have illness. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
[Mark2:17MKJV].

"And they went out and proclaimed that men should repent."
[Mark6:12MKJV].

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c. The Gospel of LUKE.

"And he came into all the country around Jordan, proclaiming the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins ..."
[Luke3:3MKJV].

"Therefore bring forth fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say within yourselves, We have Abraham for our father. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones."
[Luke3:8MKJV].

"I did not come to call the righteous to repentance, but sinners."
[Luke5:32MKJV].

"I tell you, No. But unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
[Luke13:3MKJV].

"I tell you, No. But unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
[Luke13:5MKJV].

"I say to you that likewise joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."
[Luke15:7MKJV].

"And he said, No, father Abraham, but if one should go to them from the dead, they would repent."
[Luke16:30].

"And if he trespasses against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turns again to you, saying, I repent, you shall forgive him."
[Luke17:4MKJV].

"... and that repentance and remission of sins should be proclaimed in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."
[Luke24:47MKJV].

d. The Book of ACTS.

"Then Peter said to them, Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ to remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
[Acts2:38MKJV].

"Therefore repent and convert so that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."

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[Acts3:19MKJV].

"This One God has exalted to be a Ruler and Savior to His right hand in order to give repentance and remission of sins to Israel."
[Acts5:31MKJV].

"Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you."
[Acts8:22MKJV].

"When they heard these things, they were silent and glorified God, saying, Then God has also granted repentance to life to the nations."
[Acts11:18MKJV].

"John having before proclaimed the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel, before His coming."
[Acts13:24MKJV].

"Truly, then, God overlooking the times of ignorance, now He strictly commands all men everywhere to repent."
[Acts17:30MKJV].

"And Paul said, John truly baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe into Him coming after him, that is, into Jesus Christ."
[Acts19:4MKJV].

"... testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ."
[Acts20:21MKJV].

"But to those first in Damascus, and Jerusalem, and to all the country of Judea, and to the nations, I made known the command to repent and to turn to God, doing works worthy of repentance."
[Acts 26:20MKJV].

e. The New Testament Epistles.

"Or do you despise the riches of His kindness, and the forbearance and long-suffering, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"
[Romans2:4MKJV].

"Now I rejoice, not that you were grieved, but that you grieved to repentance. For you were grieved according to God, so that you might suffer loss by nothing in us."
[2Corinthians7:9MKJV].

"For the grief according to God works repentance to salvation, not to be regretted, but the grief of the world works out death."
[2Corinthians7:10MKJV].

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" ... in meekness instructing those who oppose, if perhaps God will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth ..."

[2Timothy2:25MKJV].

"Therefore, having left the discourse of the beginning of Christ, let us go on to full growth, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God ..."

[Hebrews6:1MKJV].

" ... and who have fallen away; it is impossible, I say, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify the Son of God afresh to themselves and put Him to an open shame."

[Hebrews6:6MKJV].

"For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected; for he did not find any place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears."

[Hebrews12:17MKJV].

"The Lord is not slow concerning His promise, as some count slowness, but is long-suffering toward us, not purposing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

[2Peter3:9MKJV].

f. The Book of Revelation.

"Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent, and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and will remove your lampstand out of its place unless you repent."

[Revelation2:5MKJV].

"Repent! But if not I will come to you quickly, and will fight with them by the sword of My mouth."

[Revelation2:16MKJV].

"And I gave her time that she might repent of her fornication, and she did not repent."

[Revelation2:21MKJV].

"Behold, I am throwing her into a bed, and those who commit adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent of their deeds."

[Revelation2:22MKJV].

"Remember then how you have received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you."

[Revelation3:3MKJV].

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"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; therefore be zealous and repent."

[Revelation3:19MKJV].

"And the rest of the men who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and golden, and silver, and bronze, and stone, and wooden idols (which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk)."

[Revelation9:20MKJV].

"And they did not repent of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."

[Revelation9:21MKJV].

"And men were burned with great heat. And they blasphemed the name of God, He having authority over these plagues. And they did not repent in order to give Him glory."

[Revelation16:9MKJV].

"And they blasphemed the God of Heaven because of their pains and their sores. And they did not repent of their deeds."

[Revelation16:11MKJV].□

A few honest men are better than numbers

Oliver Cromwell
(1599-1658)

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Chapter 10

REASONS WHY JESUS CHRIST DID SO MANY MIRACLES

People who like this sort of thing will find this is the sort of thing they like

Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)

Why did Jesus Christ do so many miracles? The number of miracles ('wonder-works') Jesus Christ must have performed during His short tenure as Messiah must have been prodigious with most of them probably never published; the Apostle John writes:

> "This is the disciple who testifies of these things and wrote these things. And we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many things, whatever Jesus did, which, if they should be written singly, I suppose the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen."
>
> [John21:24-25MKJV].

1. Reasons why Jesus Christ did so many Miracles

1.1 JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD. Jesus was/is deity and deity (a real God) does miracles ... period. Obviously, He would have made His entrance on this here sad planet doing miracles to establish His authority and elicit peoples' attention.

> "And after John was delivered up, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God draws near. Repent, and believe the gospel."
>
> [Mark1:14-15MKJV].

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1.2 JESUS HAD COMPASSION FOR THE PEOPLE. God is LOVE, so obviously the *agape love* of the Master would have begun to manifest the minute He stepped out in ministry.

> "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him."
>
> [John3:16-17MKJV].

1.3 JESUS HAS COME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED AND TO SET CAPTIVES FREE.

> "And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And, as His custom was, He went in to the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read.
>
> And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And unrolling the book, He found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is on Me; because of this He has anointed Me to proclaim the Gospel to the poor. He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim deliverance to the captives, and new sight to the blind, to set at liberty those having been crushed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.' "
>
> "And rolling up the book, returning it to the attendant, He sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fastened on Him. And He began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your ears.' "
>
> [Luke4:16-21MKJV].

1.4 JESUS HAS COME TO GIVE TO THOSE WHO MOURN 'BEAUTY FOR ASHES', THE 'OIL OF JOY FOR MOURNING' AND THE 'GARMENT OF PRAISE FOR A SPIRIT OF HEAVINESS'.

> " ... to appoint to those who mourn in Zion, to give to them <u>beauty for ashes</u>, the <u>oil of joy for mourning</u>, the <u>mantle of praise for the spirit of heaviness</u>; so that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of Jehovah, that He might be glorified."
>
> [Isaiah61:3MKJV].

1.5 JESUS HAS COME TO PROVE THE AUTHENTICITY (BONA FIDES) AS THE PROPHESIED MESSIAH. Jesus probably needed to convince the religious authorities and citizens of His day of His authenticity as a true miracle-worker and God in the flesh, as opposed to a common street illusionist or circus magician, as borne out by the articulated concerns of His enemies the Pharisees.

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> "Then the chief priests and Pharisees gathered a sanhedrin, and said, What can we do? For this man does many miracles. If we let him alone this way, all will believe on him. And the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation."
>
> [John11:47-48MKJV].

P.S. The authenticity of the miracles was e.g., demonstrated by the fact that, when Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead, He took the precaution of barring the 'wailers' and 'mourners' from the room, probably to clear the air of the spirit of unbelief and morbidity. A common exhibitionist of a charlatan (with ulterior motives) probably would have welcomed an audience, and the larger the better.

> "And behold, a man named Jairus came, and he was a synagogue-ruler. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him that He would come into his house. For he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay dying. But as He went, the people thronged Him.
>
> And a woman who had a flow of blood twelve years (who had spent all her living on physicians, and could not be healed by any) came behind Him and touched the border of His garment. And instantly her flow of blood was staunched.
>
> And Jesus said, Who touched Me? And all having denied, Peter and those with Him said, Master, the crowd presses and jostles You, and You say, Who touched Me? And Jesus said, Someone has touched Me, for I know that power has gone out of Me.
>
> And seeing that she was not hidden, the woman came trembling. And falling down before Him, she declared to Him before all the people why she had touched Him, and how she was instantly healed. And He said to her, Daughter, be comforted. Your faith has saved you; go in peace.
>
> He was still speaking when someone came from the synagogue-ruler, saying to him, Your daughter is dead, do not trouble the Teacher. But when Jesus heard, He answered Him, saying, Do not fear, only believe and she shall be healed.
>
> And coming into the house, He allowed no one to go in, except Peter and James and John, and the father and the mother of the girl. And all were weeping and bewailing her. But He said, Do not weep; she has not died, but sleeps.
>
> And they ridiculed, knowing that she was dead. And He put them all out. And He took her by the hand and called, saying, Little girl, arise!
>
> And her spirit came again, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that food be given her to eat. And her parents were astonished. But He charged them to tell no one the thing that happened."
>
> [Luke8:41-55MKJV].

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2. No 'exhibition performances'

Because Jesus of Nazareth was not a cheap exhibitionist or fraud, He usually avoided doing miracles on popular, superficial request. When Herod tried to 'solicit' Him into performing His 'magic', Jesus not only declined but never answered Herod as much as one single word. Jesus nevertheless did many great things:

> "And hearing Galilee, Pilate asked if the man is a Galilean.
> And knowing that He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who himself was also at Jerusalem at that time.
> And seeing Jesus, Herod greatly rejoiced, for he had desired to see Him *for* a long *time*, because he had heard many things about Him. And he hoped to see some miracle done by Him.
> And he questioned Him in many words, but He answered him nothing. ."
>
> [John23:6-9MKJV].

3. The great 'Rationale' behind the miracles

3.1 THE WW2 HOLOCAUST. At the end of World War 2, General Eisenhower came to Auschwitz-Birkenau to observe Nazi atrocities first-hand, i.e., the death camps, gassing facilities ("showers") and cremation ovens; he reportedly told army photographers to photograph and film as much of the evidence (dead corpses and emaciated survivors) as possible because he knew that memories were notoriously short and that the world would soon (too soon!) forget and possibly even deny that the holocaust had ever happened (as is being done by some today). The primary reasons Jesus Christ had done so many miracles was to:

(i) establish His divinity as the Son of God, Son of Man and Son of David.

(ii) affirm His mandate as the anticipated Messiah of the Jews and Saviour of the world; and

(iii) establish (beyond a reasonable doubt) His rightful authority and power to forgive sins! [Matthew9:6].

The Bible says:

> "I saw in the night visions, and behold, *One* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him."

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[Daniel7:13MKJV].

> "But so that you may KNOW that the SON of Man has AUTHORITY on earth to FORGIVE SINS, then He said to the paralytic, Arise, take up your bed and go to your house."
>
> [Matthew9:6MKJV].

3.2 THE SPIRIT MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE BODY. Let's be brutally honest: I'd rather be forgiven of all my sins and fallibility as a sinful human being first than worry over getting healed in the body, since man can go to Heaven with a broken body, but not with unforgiven sin and an unregenerated spirit; but, admittedly, many may desperately need physical healing as well.

4. The Ultimate Surprise/Shock

4.1 THE DANIEL PROPHECY. Bear in mind that the epithet, 'Son of Man', was not only meant to illustrate the fact that Jesus Christ was, over and above being 'deity', also 'fully human' but to also emphasize His stature as God's de facto Emissary from Heaven and with the right to Everlasting Dominion; it was a fulfilment of Daniel's prophecy (vsion). The prophet Daniel writes:

> "I saw in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. And dominion and glory was given Him, and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages, should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."
>
> [Daniel 7:13-14MKJV].

4.2 THE CRUCIFIXION. Now, during His ministry on earth Jesus Christ was reviled by His enemies, rejected, and illegally prosecuted by the Pharisees and Scribes (they did not follow due process), ridiculed by Herod, mocked by the Roman soldiers, brutally scourged and crucified by the religious authorities with the help of the occupying army, betrayed by a friend, denounced by a dear disciple, abandoned by most of the other disciples and left for dead by just about all.

Even His garden tomb had to be borrowed from an honourable Jewish counsellor (Joseph of Arimathea) otherwise His body probably would have been dumped on some waste-disposal site ('Gehenna'*) to be burned.

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Interestingly the women in his life have proved faithful to the end, i.e., Mary (His mother), Mary (an aunt) and Mary Magdalene (a follower).

> *"Gehenna, also called Gehinnom, abode of the damned in the afterlife in Jewish and Christian eschatology (the doctrine of last things). Named in the New Testament in Greek form (from the Hebrew Ge Hinnom, meaning "valley of Hinnom"), Gehenna originally was a valley west and south of Jerusalem where children were burned as sacrifices to the Ammonite god Moloch. This practice was carried out by the Israelites during the reigns of King Solomon in the 10th century BC and King Manasseh in the 7th century BC and continued until the Babylonian Exile in the 6th century BC. Gehenna later was made a garbage centre to discourage a reintroduction of such sacrifices."*
>
> [www.britannica.com/topic/Gehenna].

4.3 JESUS CHRIST THE CHIEF JUSTICE. Even today the Name of Jesus Christ is blasphemed and profaned by the world and those who hate Him. Imagine then the shock when all those who had reviled Him and today still blaspheme His Holy Name will discover that Jesus Christ is going to be the Presiding Chief Justice at the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of days:

> "For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son, so that all should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.
>
> "Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My Word and believes on Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, The hour is coming and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God, and they who hear shall live ...
>
> "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has given to the Son to have life within Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man."
>
> [John5:22-27MKJV].□

Life is like playing a violin solo in public and learning the instrument as one goes on

Samuel Butler
(1835-1902)

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Chapter 11

IN SEARCH FOR THE ELIXIR OF LIFE

Our birth is but a sleep and forgetting:
The Soul that rises with us, our Life's Star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar.

William Wordsworth
(1770-1850)

The Big Freeze 'Cryonics' their only hope. Zack Guzman writes:

> *"In the desert climate of Scottsdale, Arizona, rest 147 brains and bodies, all frozen in liquid nitrogen with the goal of being revived one day ... It's not science fiction — to some it might not even be science — yet thousands of people around the world have put their trust, lives and fortunes into the promise of cryonics, the practice of preserving a body with antifreeze shortly after death in hopes future medicine might be able to bring the deceased back."*
>
> [Guzman, Zack (2016*) Meet the Company Offering a Chance at Immortality for $200 000.* CNBC, Online 2021].

1. Cryonics won't work

These high-tech snake-oil salesmen of 'science' will yet learn that life is more than a collection of atoms, molecules, brains, hair, skin, nails and dandruff; how those gullible human 'lab-rats' are ever going to get their $200 000 plus interest and non-performance penalties back from these quacks I don't know. Only a fool would put his trust in 'Cryonics'. The Bible says:

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> "And as it is appointed to men once to die, but after this the judgment ..."
>
> [Hebrews9:27MKJV].

2. Evolution won't work

If the evolutionists were to be believed, 'Evolution' ('Stellar Evolution' etc.) has been practicing its 'craft' and 'plying its trade' now for 'billions of years' and ('Palaeontology') for 'millions of years', yet the human race's mortality rate still doggedly persists at a lethal 100% for every generation and every nation ... why can't 'Evolution' get it right?

Even the chimpanzee cracking the nut with a rock ('tool') has, for the past thousands of years (if you are a Christian) or for the past 'millions of years' (if you are an evolutionist) never changed or improved his technology. He has, in other words, never 'evolved' and probably will still be cracking his nut with a rock millions of years from today. It thus stands to reason that only a fool would put his trust in 'Evolution', or in its renegade cousin, the 'World Transformation Movement'. Here is the best they can promise us:

- a membership card from your nearest 'Secular Humanist Society';
- a 100% mortality rate for every nation and every generation; and
- death-after-death (no Hereafter).

3. Scientology won't work

This religious cult posing as a 'church' won't work either ... sorry to have to disappoint you but all scientologists are, just L. Ron Hubbard and the rest of humanity, going to die and after that ... the *Great White Throne Judgment.* Only a fool would put his trust in 'Scientology'.

> "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."
>
> [Hebrews9:27-28KJV].

4. Space Travel won't work

As much as we are intrigued by 'Science' and the accomplishments of scientists, the quest to conquer space won't work ... get over it. The Cosmos is

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simply too vast and way beyond the reach of mankind under current conditions and constraints.

Only a fool would put his trust in 'space exploration', except for what may be useful for satellite technology, sky-wars between planetary belligerents or for space tourism inside the cramped little backyard of our teeny weeny little solar system.

5. Humanism, Transhumanism and Posthumanism won't work

This won't work either because proponents of these ideals also believe, by their own admission, in *death-after-death;* just like the evolutionists they also have given up all hope to ever advance beyond a 100% mortality rate for every generation of mankind. Only a fool would thus put his trust in any kind of pagan, Leftist driven, Godless 'Humanism'.

6. Tecnological Advancements won't work

In contrast to what atheists, evolutionists, naturalists and humanists in general believe, advances in technology won't work because the Cosmos and life in the Cosmos is transcendently managed and maintained by a transcendent Creator who has the final say over the destiny of His own Creation, including the destiny of manking wrapped up in the destiny of planet earth. There is no technology in the hands of man that will ever, under current conditions, discover the work that God makes from the beginning to the end of all things. The Bible says:

> "He has made everything beautiful in His time; also He has set eternity in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end."
>
> [Ecclesiastes3:11MKJV].

7. Only the True Elixir of Life will work

Jesus Christ, the Anointed Saviour of the world and long-awaited Messiah of the Jews, has solemnly promised:

> "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life ... Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My Word and believes on Him who sent Me has everlasting life and shall not come into

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> condemnation, but has passed from death to life ... Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."
>
> [John3:16; 5:24; 14:1-3MKJV].

This is the true ELIXIR of life.□

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We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with a sleep

Prospero, *The Tempest*

William Shakespeare
(1564-1616)

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Chapter 12

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE

Every cradle asks us 'Whence'? and every coffin 'Whither'?

R.G. Ingersoll
(1833-1899)

Adversity, also referred to as 'The University of Hard Knocks' or 'The University of Adversity': Maybe we should learn not to take such a dim view of adversity. I think it was Charles Spurgeon who has said that, provided we prevailed, God was able to redeem for us lost time, spilled tears and days of trouble; and, even when four days late (as with the death of Lazarus) He could still be "on time".

1. The Scourge of Adversity

Unless we understand the dynamics of life on earth and the Christian's laborious pilgrimage en route to Eternity, neither the Creation story nor the prospect of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ probably will ever make sense. Consequently, as soon as 'meaning' begins to dissipate before the onslaught of technology and pagan scepticism, naturalism and a pathological, materialist need to try and hyper-spiritualise the Bible where all the miracles of the Bible must be "metaphorically" or "poetically" interpreted at all cost will begin to creep in ... either to save face in front of atheists or to rescue for oneself the relevance of the Biblical narrative in today's cynical, hopelessly over-secularised world.

2. Quotes on Suffering & Insecurity

Some useful quotes:

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- *"A ship in port is safe, but that's not what ships are built for."*

[Dale Carnegie].

- *"The more you do, the more you fail. The more you fail, the more you learn. The more you learn, the better you get."*

[John Maxwell].

- *"If your God is mighty enough to ignite the sun, could it be that He is mighty enough to light your path? Stay strong! Your test will yet become your testimony, your mess will yet become your message."*

[Max Lucado].

- *"If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well. If it is worth having, it is worth waiting for. If it is worth attaining, it is worth fighting for. If it is worth experiencing, it is worth putting aside time for."*

[Oscar Wilde].

3. The Tragedy of Selfishness

Sometimes we can be so self-absorbed in our problems, adversity and suffering that we completely forget the pain of those around us. Wrote Martin Niemöller about the WW2 days of the Nazi scourge:

"First, they came for the Socialists,
And I did not speak out,
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists,
And I did not speak out,
Because I was not a trade unionist.
Then they came for the Jews,
And I did not speak out,
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me,
And there was no one left.
To speak out for me."

[Martin Niemöller, 1892-1984]

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P.S. Conscientious objectors and critics of the Nazi regime, Martin Niemöller survived the concentration camps to eventually testify against the Nazis at Nuremberg; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, however, didn't survive the camps.

4. A lesson in Gratitude

Jesus never forgot to say, 'thank you'. The Bible says:

> "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."
>
> [Matthew11:25KJV].

> "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves ... And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me."
>
> [Luke22:17,19KJV].

> "And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would."
>
> [John6:11KJV].

> "Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me."
>
> [John11:41KJV].

5. The Apostle Paul & Gratitude

The Apostle Paul admonished believers to be grateful:

> "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place ... Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."
>
> [2Corinthians2:14; 9:15KJV].

> "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
>
> [Ephesians5:20KJV].

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6. Gratitude on 'Death Row'

Some say that the song of the parakeet in a cage (suffering incarceration) is the sweetest and most melodious of all others. Languishing on death row on a charge of homicide (manslaughter) and expecting to be executed (however reprieved after four years in prison) the prolific South African writer, Herman Charles Bosman, once wrote:

"Tho' my heart is bruised and riven;
And my soul is scathed with scars –
Yet, I've touched the fringe of heaven ...
I've lived among the stars!"

Herman Charles Bosman
(1905-1951)

7. My Conscription Years

7.1 INTRODUCTION. During the 1990s and the years after I had completed my conscription driven 'national service' for my country in 1966, and, followed up by about half-a-dozen of intermittent 'military call-ups' over the years, I finally, in 1994, was released from my citizens' military obligations during our country's political transition to 'democracy'. Turning back the clock were two incidents of note that will always be fondly remembered:

7.2.1 **The SWA-Angola Border War Call-up.** During the 1970s, after I had completed my formal military training and had fulfilled all my additional obligations to my brigade (military police) years before, I suddenly got hit with a call-up instruction to the then theatre-of-war in SWA-Angola where the South African Defence Force was engaged in a border war with SWAPO and Fidel Castro's Cubans.

Although somewhat perturbed by the matter-of-fact official telegram, I still subserviently acquiesced and reported to the designated assembly point in Bloemfontein sometime later.

That first night, on my first round of mandatory guard-duty, I looked up to the glorious Milky Way stretching over the barren nocturnal Free State landscape and wondered aloud: "Lord, what am I doing here?" I suspected that somewhere, somehow there must have been an administrative error, but just couldn't lay a finger on it.

The next day I went to my commandant and requested a formal inquiry into what I thought was an irregular call-up. Long story short, the next day a

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telex ('wire') arrived to inform my commandant that there had been a foul-up with the call-ups (!) and that I wasn't supposed to be there.

Next thing, I was on the train on my way back home 300 kms north of Bloemfontein (South Africa). By the way, I still believe that there wasn't a 'foul-up' with my 'call-up', but, that they had done it on purpose. The army in those days used to employ the same trick as the merchant of old times who reportedly, to recoup some loss with a bag of grain or seed when he couldn't remember who had taken it, apparently had the habit of sending an invoice for the said item to every single customer on the books; being too lazy or (as farmers) simply too busy to bother, it is said that more than one customer sometimes obliged by paying up.

Similarly, our brigade staff in Pretoria, I later learned, had the clandestine policy of issuing as many call-up orders as is possible left, right and centre in the hope that they would get a good turn-up.

7.2.2 **Another Border Call-up in the Bushveldt.** During the early 1990s, when we were living in the wild, sub-tropical Bushveldt region of South Africa, the Defence Force again back-pedalled on its principles, and I was again slapped with call-ups for border duty on the South Africa-Botswana border; again I acquiesced and again I complained to the Lord: "Lord, here I am after having fulfilled all of my mandatory military obligations teamed up with a bunch of frolicking youngsters half my age ... what am I doing here?"

Without this time having objected to any of the military authorities, the next day I was mysteriously, unceremoniously, transferred from the "expeditionary column" (the guys who were going to patrol the South-Africa/Botswana border) and, thanks to the glaring age gap between myself and the frolicking youngsters, returned to the commando headquarters near my home where we were tasked with manning the radio-communication system for our column, thus allowing me to pursue my studies, with exams looming, in peace.

My fondest memory here? Reclining on my lacklustre army-cot and discovering these words literally "chalked-up" with white chalk on the ceiling of my tent years before by another lonely and frustrated soldier: "My Grace is sufficient for thee!"Do the math: Out of dozens of army tents containing four to six army-cots each what were the mathematical odds that those words would be written right above my bed ... the very 'odd man out' who has had to seek and find relief from his Heavenly Father?

> "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

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[2Corinthians12:9KJV].

8. The Furnace, the Forge and the Hammer

8.1 INTRODUCTION. In his book, *Faith's Cheque-Book on the Bank of Faith,* Charles Spurgeon writes:

> *"My Lord's words are true; I have my share of tribulation beyond all doubt. How can I look to be at home in the enemy's country, joyful while in exile, or comfortable in a wilderness? This is not my rest. This the place of the furnace, the forge and the hammer."*

Most of us would probably, I think, wholeheartedly agree.

8.2 SOLOMON BUILDS HIS TEMPLE. I am reminded of a time when Solomon was engaged in the building of the temple. The Bible says:

> "And the house, when it was in building, was built of stone made ready before it was brought thither: so that there was neither hammer nor axe nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was in building."
>
> [1Kings6:7KJV].

From this passage it is clear that *(i) the stones were hewn in a quarry away from the new temple precinct* to *(ii) limit the clatter and jangle of the builders to the quarry.* The noise of the builders from the cutting and chiselling of the stones were not allowed to sully the sacred skies of the dedicated Temple precinct.

8.3 THIS WORLD IS GOD'S 'QUARRY'. The Lord's' people are like stones being hewn at a quarry, with this world as the quarry; let the uncouth noise of the builders' chiselling away at the rough and hard stone of ignorance, disobedience, superficial spirituality and callous indifference to the pain of others be heard here in this quarry and in this quarry only, never to echo again in the pristine purity and Shekinah glory of the Father's 'House of Many Mansions' (John14:2-3) where the clatter and jangle of this life's pain, sorrow, suffering and struggling will have been left behind forever and even the strident sound of crying and taste of bitter tears will have been dried from the faces of God's children by God Himself.

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> "For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will feed them and will lead them to the fountains of living waters. And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes ... And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there will be no more death, nor mourning, nor crying out, nor will there be any more pain; for the first things passed away."
> [Revelation7:17; 21:4MKJV].

9. Jesus Christ was also in this furnace

Jesus Christ has had to suffer the discomfort, pain and humiliation of the furnace in the quarry of life in Jerusalem Himself too. The Bible says:

> "Though he [JESUS CHRIST] were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered."
> [Hebrews5:8KJV].

How would we ever have been able (in all Eternity) to appreciate the pain and excruciating torture of the Roman cross Jesus Christ has had to suffer, or fellowship with His suffering if we had never suffered and felt pain ourselves? How would we ever have been able to appreciate His sacrifice of giving His life for His friends unless we, in the grand scheme of things, were also destined to taste death ourselves? Jesus has promised:

> "Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also ... I have spoken these things to you so that you might have peace in Me. In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."
> [John14:1-3; 16:33MKJV].□

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Throw away thy rod, Throw away thy wrath;
O my God, Take the gentle path

George Herbert
(1593-1633)

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Chapter 13

QUESTIONS SCIENCE CANNOT ANSWER

Readers are of two sorts; one who carefully goes through a book, and the other who as carefully lets the book go through him

Douglas Jerrold
(1803-1857)

Since we have already earlier seen that scientists know only about 5% of what is going on in the Universe (with the rest of the 95% described as, "undetectable by scientific instruments dark matter and dark energy," we have no choice but to concede that there are certain questions that may never in this life be answered, and, that there are questions that only the Bible can answer. The hard fact is that there are things, i.e., knowledge, information etc., that only God is privy too. The Bible says:

> "So says Jehovah the Maker of it, Jehovah who formed it in order to establish it; Jehovah *is* His name:Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and inscrutable things which you do not know." [Jeremiah33:2-3MKJV].

> "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways, says Jehovah. For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." [Isaiah55:8-9MKJV].

> "The secret things *belong* to Jehovah our God, but the revealed things *belong* to us and to our sons forever, so that we may do all the words of this Law." [Deuteronomy29:29MKJV].

> "He has made everything beautiful in His time; also He has set eternity in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God makes from the beginning to the end."

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[Ecclesiastes3:11MKJV].

"But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

[Daniel12:4MKJV].

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the coming glory to be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation waits for the manifestation of the sons of God.

[Romans8:18-19MKJV].

"And when the seven thunders spoke their sounds, I was about to write. And I heard a voice from Heaven saying to me, Seal up what things the seven thunders spoke, and do not write these things."

[Revelation10:4MKJV].

"And he said to me, Do not seal the Words of the prophecy of this Book; for the time is at hand."

[Revelation22:10MKJV].

1. Questions scientists cannot answer

Questions Science has never been able to coherently answer:

- Why is there something instead of nothing?
- Where do we come from?
- Why are we here?
- Where are we going?
- Is there hope for planet earth?
- Is there life after death?
- How can we know the difference between right and wrong?

2. Why is there something instead of nothing?

2.1 WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES. The Bible says that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis1:1). Although the Bible does not say why God created the heavens and the earth, we can nevertheless safely deduce that the omnipotent and omniscient God must have been in existence before that and that He, consequently, is a deity of the type of substance (a spirit) that does not require the dimensions of time, space and matter (as we know it) for His existence, survival or personal comfort. Jesus Christ has said:

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"God *is* a spirit, and they who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."
[John4:24MKJV].

So, why is there something instead of nothing? All we can know for now is that God created the world for His glory. In other words, God probably spoke this mighty Cosmos into existence in all its majesty and splendour (and in clockword engineering precision) for future generations to be able to learn to know the Creator, and specifically to learn to know Him as a Creator of superb intelligence and One who loves beauty. The Bible says:

> "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the expanse proclaims His handiwork."
> [Psalm19:1MKJV].

> "I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Do not keep back; bring My sons from far and My daughters from the ends of the earth;
> everyone who is called by My name; for I have created him for My glory, I have formed him; yea, *I have* made him."
> [Isaiah43:6-7MKJV].

As for the atheist, the wicked and the ungodly's callous indifference toward God, the Bible says:

> "For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because the thing which may be known of God is clearly revealed within them, for God revealed *it* to them. For the unseen things of Him from *the* creation of *the* world *are* clearly seen, being realized by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, for them to be without excuse. Because, knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were thankful. But *they* became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools."
> [Romans1:18-22MKJV].

2.2 THE RATIONALE BEHIND CREATION. Unfortunately God did it not think it expedient to divulge why the Cosmos had become a necessity, except in as far as it was created for His glory. Obviously the God of the Bible is an absolutely and infinitely selfsufficient deity who stands in need of nothing, except perhaps for opportunities to create, and create on a grand scale. True Gods create ... period.

When one consider the heavens, the majestic Cosmos and its stupendous, virtually unfathomable scope and size, one cannot help but to surmise that this Universe is hopelessly too big to ever could have been conceived with only us puny earthlings in mind, and that there surely must be is much more to it than

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the eye can see. I wouldn't be surprised were this Universe home to billions and billions of habitable planets teeming with life and filled with glorious lifeforms (like angels) yet undiscovered and undefined by science, and I am definitily not referring to the little green or grey Martians of Hollywood and the movies.

Even Charles Spurgeon has intimated that, for all we know, this planet might be nothing more than a little 'sideshow' to God, or perhaps only one of many such little sideshows; it would really be arrogant of us to simply assume that we are the main attraction in the Cosmos, although it would not necessarily be impossible; all things are possible for God. If, however, only a sideshow, thank God it was a sideshow important enough for Jesus Christ to come and die for us.

2.3 WE CANNOT KNOW WHAT THE REAL UNIVERSE LOOKS LIKE. Bear in mind that we do not have an inkling what the Universe really looks like. When we look up into the nightsky, we are looking up at history; even the sun is observed the way it must have looked about 8 minutes and 20 seconds earlier; Alpha Centauri, 4.367 years ago; Orion, 1600 years ago; Andromeda (hypothetically), 2.537 million years ago (provided the Universe is really that old which I seriously doubt). Bear in mind: The distances to the stars do not necessarily have anything to do with the age of the Universe. I anyway doubt if any (unfalsifiable?) distance further than 100 light-years from the earth could ever be measured accurately.

There is also not telling what the Universe really (in realtime) today looks like; we might be shocked (or surprised) had we been able to see what it really looked like. We have no choice but to accept that God has created the Cosmos for His glory, that this life is only a short prelude to the real life awaiting Christ's bride on the other side and that we will only be let in to Heaven's deeper secrets at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul writes:

> "I know a man in Christ fourteen years before (whether in *the* body, I do *was* caught up to *the* third Heaven. And I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), that he was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words, which it is not allowed for a man to utter."
>
> [2Corinthians12:2-4MKJV].

2.4 ATHEISM IS NO EXPLANATION. Having said that, the atheists' assumption that there is no God and no Afterlife (Hereafter) must surely be the most depressing, morbid and demoralising ideology ever dreamed up by mankind.

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3. Where do we come from?

The Bible teaches that the spirit of man became a living soul when the breath of life was breathed into him by the breath of God:

> "... And God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female."
>
> [Genesis1:27MKJV].
>
> "And Jehovah God formed man *of the* dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.
>
> [Genesis2:7MKJV].

4. Why are we here?

Whatever the reasons may be for our presence on earth, we can safely surmise that God knew what He was doing when He created man in His image and as "the sheep of His pasture"; and, once the fullness of time has come, we will finally discover the secrets behind it. The Bible teaches:

> "And God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him. He created them male and female. And God blessed them. And God said to them, Be fruitful, and multiply and fill the earth, and subdue it. And have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of the heavens, and all animals that move upon the earth."
> [Genesis1:27-28MKJV].

> " ... everyone who is called by My name; for I have created him for My glory, I have formed him; yea, *I have* made him.
>
> [Isaiah43:7MKJV].

> "Worship Jehovah with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that Jehovah, He *is* God. He has made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture."
>
> [Psalm100:2-3MKJV].

> "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God, and keep His commandments. For this *is* the whole *duty* of man. 12:14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it is* good, or whether evil."
>
> [Ecclesiastes12:13-14MKJV].

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5. Where are we going?

The Bible is very clear about the final destiny of man:

> "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine as the brightness of the sky; and those who turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever and ever. But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, even to the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."
>
> [Daniel12:2-4MKJV].

> "Then those fearing Jehovah spoke together, *each* man to his neighbor. And Jehovah listened and heard. And a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared Jehovah, and for those esteeming His name."
>
> [Malachi3:16MKJV].

> "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer is. And I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband. And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there will be no more death, nor mourning, nor crying out, nor will there be any more pain; for the first things passed away. And He sitting on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said to me, Write, for these words are true and faithful. And He said to me, It is done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who thirsts I will give of the fountain of the Water of Life freely. He who overcomes will inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he will be My son."
>
> [Revelation21:1-7MKJV].

6. Is there hope for planet earth?

Hope for this (the first) earth? Not really. Hope for the New Earth? Yes! The Bible says:

> "And it shall be, he who flees from the sound of dread shall fall into the pit. And he who comes up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare. For the windows from on high are opened, and the foundations of the earth quake. The earth is breaking, breaking! The earth is crashing, crashing! The earth is tottering, tottering! Like a

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> drunkard the earth is staggering, staggering! And it rocks to and fro like a tree-hut! And its sins heavy on it; and it shall fall and not rise again. And it shall be in that day, Jehovah shall punish the host of the high place on high, and on the kings of the earth on the earth. And they shall be gathered, *as* prisoners are gathered in a dungeon. And they shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days they shall be judged. Then the moon shall blush, and the sun shall be ashamed, when Jehovah of Hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, and gloriously before His elders."
>
> [Isaiah24:18-23MKJV].

> "But the present heavens and the earth being kept in store by the same Word, are being kept for fire until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men ... But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in *the* night, in which the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, and *the* elements will melt with fervent heat. And the earth and the works in it will be burned up ... But according to His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells"
>
> [2Peter3:7, 10, 13MKJV].

> "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer is."
>
> [Revelation21:1MKJV].

7. Is there life after death?

In the Book of Job, one of the oldest books of the Bible, the man Job, during the days his indescribable suffering, wrote this fervent prayer:

> "Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were engraved in a book! *Oh that* they were cut with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever! For I know *that* my Redeemer lives, and He shall rise on the earth at the last; and even after they corrupt my skin, yet this: in my flesh I shall see God."
>
> [Job19:23-26MKJV].

Jesus Christ has promised:

> "But even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
>
> [John3:14-16MKJV].

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> "Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not *so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also."
>
> [John14:1-3MKJV].

Where else, outside of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, would we find more conclusive evidence for life after death than the report of the appearance of Moses and Elijah, both long dead for centuries, on the Mount of Transfiguration? The Bible says:

> "And after six days Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up into a high mountain, apart by themselves. And He was transfigured before them. And His clothing became shining, exceedingly white as snow such as no fuller on earth could whiten them. And Elijah with Moses was seen by them, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter answered and said to Jesus, Rabbi, it is good *for* us to be here. And let us make three tabernacles, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. For he did not know what to say, for they were very much afraid. And there was a cloud that overshadowed them. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is My beloved Son. Hear Him. And suddenly, looking around, they did not see anyone any more, except Jesus alone with themselves."
>
> [Mark9:2-8MKJV].

> "For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
>
> [Romans6:23MKJV].

8. How can we know the difference between right and wrong?

Life is a choice between God ('YHWH, 'Jehovah', 'Yahweh') and Satan ('Diabolos'), Good and Evil, Light and Darkness; Jesus Christ has explained the difference between good (light) and evil (darkness), as originally founded on the moral law of Moses (the Torah and the Ten Commandments), as follows:

> "For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes on Him is not condemned, but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of

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> God. And this is the condemnation, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than the Light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who practices truth comes to the Light so that his works may be revealed, that they exist, having been worked in God."
>
> [John3:16-21MKJV].

So, although the basis for Salvation is faith in Christ (and not on the grounds of personal merit, piety, or performance) the Bible, God's *Moral Compass* of choice for the sheep of His pasture, nevertheless teaches the imperative for Christians to be involved and engaged in good works:

PROPOSITION 8.1: Performing good works is a command from Jesus Christ Himself and from Scripture in general.

> "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven."
>
> [Matthew5:16MKJV].

> "Charge the rich in this world that they be not high-minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, He offering to us richly all things to enjoy, that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to share, to be generous."
>
> [1Timothy6:17-18MKJV].

PROPOSITION 8.2: People full of good works will be commended by God and appreciated in their community.

> "And in Joppa was a certain disciple named Tabitha (which translated is called Dorcas). She was full of good works and kind deeds which she did."
>
> [Acts9:36MKJV].

PROPOSITION 8.3: Jesus Christ Himself performed many good works during His ministry on earth.

> "Jesus answered them, I have shown you many good works from My Father; for which of these do you stone Me?"
>
> [John10:32MKJV].

PROPOSITION 8.4: Rulers (Governments) are not a terror to good works and shall shower praise on those engaged in same.

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> "For the rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the bad. And do you desire to be not afraid of the authority? Do the good, and you shall have praise from it."
>
> [Romans 13:3MKJV].

PROPOSITION 8.5: Christians were created unto good works which God has ordained that they should walk in them.

> "For we are *His* workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them."
>
> [Ephesians2:10MKJV].

PROPOSITION 8.6: Those who profess that they know God but who are without any good works are considered 'abominable', 'disobedient' and 'unto every good work reprobate'.

> "They profess that they know God, but in *their* works they deny *Him*, being abominable and disobedient and reprobate to every good work."
>
> [Titus1:16MKJV].

PROPOSITION 8.7: Only those good works done discreetly will be rewarded by God.

> "Take heed that you do not do your merciful deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward with your Father in Heaven. Therefore when you do *your* merciful deeds, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may have glory from men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward. But when you do merciful deeds, do not let your left hand know what your right hand does, so that your merciful deeds may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret Himself shall reward you openly."
>
> [Matthew6:1-4MKJV].

PROPOSITION 8.8: Jesus Christ attached immense value to the good works of His disciples and has promised appropriate rewards commensurate with the type of good works by such believers.

> "For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He shall reward each one according to his works."
>
> [Matthew16:27MKJV].

> "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to each according as his work is."
>
> [Revelation22:12MKJV].

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PROPOSITION 8.9: At the Bema Judgment Seat of Christ believers will formally receive reward for their work on earth.

> "And the nations were full of wrath, and Your wrath came, and the time of the judging of the dead, and to give the reward to Your servants the prophets, and to the saints, and to the ones fearing Your name, to the small and to the great, and to destroy those destroying the earth."
> [Revelation 11:18; 20:4,12].

PROPOSITION 8.10: Five Special Crowns are, it would appear, reserved for those who had excelled in the following areas:

8.10.1 The Crown of Life.

> "Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation, because having been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."
> [James1:12MKJV].

> "Do not at all fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the Devil will cast *some* of you into prison, so that you may be tried. And you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life."
> [Revelation2:10MKJV].

8.10.2 The Incorruptible Crown.

> "Do you not know that those running in a race all run, but one receives the prize? So run, that you may obtain. And everyone who strives for the mastery is temperate in all things. Then those truly that they may receive a corruptible crown, but we an incorruptible."
> [1Corinthians9:24-25MKJV].

8.10.3 The Crown of Righteousness.

> "Now there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that Day; and not to me only, but also to all those who love His appearing."
> [2Timothy4:8MKJV].

8.10.4 The Crown of Glory.

> "I exhort the elders who are among you, I being also an elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed. Feed the flock of God among you, taking the

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oversight, not by compulsion, but willingly; nor for base gain, but readily; nor as lording it over those allotted *to you by God*, but becoming examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd shall appear, you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory."

[1Peter5:1-4MKJV].

8.10.5 The Crown of Rejoicing

"For what *is* our hope or joy, or crown of rejoicing? *Are* you not even *to be* in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy."

[1Thessalonians2:19-20MKJV].

"Therefore, my brothers, ones loved and longed for, my joy and crown, stand fast in this way in *the* Lord, beloved ones."

[Philippians4:1MKJV].□

A man is known by the company he organises

Ambrose Bierce

(1842-1914)

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Chapter 14

There's a New World coming

A prince who will not undergo the difficulty of understanding must undergo the danger of trusting

GEORGE SAVILE,
Lord Halifax
(1633-1695)

A reminder from the Bible:

"And it shall be, he who flees from the sound of dread shall fall into the pit. And he who comes up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare. For the windows from on high are opened, and the foundations of the earth quake. The earth is breaking, breaking! The earth is crashing, crashing! The earth is tottering, tottering! Like a drunkard the earth is staggering, staggering! And it rocks to and fro like a tree-hut! And its sins heavy on it; and it shall fall and not rise again. And it shall be in that day, Jehovah shall punish the host of the high place on high, and on the kings of the earth on the earth. And they shall be gathered, *as* prisoners are gathered in a dungeon. And they shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days they shall be judged. Then the moon shall blush, and the sun shall be ashamed, when Jehovah of Hosts shall reign in Mount Zion, in Jerusalem, and gloriously before His elders."

[Isaiah24:18-23MKJV].

"But the present heavens and the earth being kept in store by the same Word, are being kept for fire until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men ... But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in *the* night, in which the heavens will pass away with a rushing noise, and *the* elements will melt with fervent heat. And the earth and the works in it will be burned up ... But according to His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells"

[2Peter3:7, 10, 13MKJV].

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1. A new Heaven and a new Earth

According to the beloved disciple, John:

> "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer is."
> [Revelation21:1MKJV].

What this will all entail is still shrouded in mystery. Be that as it may, the description of the New Jerusalem is simply breathtaking. The New Jerusalem described:

> "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth. For the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. And the sea no longer is.
> And I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband."
> [Revelation21:1-2MKJV].

> "And one of the seven angels who had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, Come here, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.
> And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from God, having the glory of God. And its light *was* like a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.
> And *it* had a great and high wall, with twelve gates. And on the gates were twelve angels, and having names inscribed, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel:
> From the east three gates, from the north three gates, from the south three gates, and from the west three gates.
> And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
> And he who talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city and its gates and its wall.
> And the city lies four-square, and the length is as large as the breadth. And he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand stadia. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.
> And he measured its wall, a hundred *and* forty-four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of an angel.
> And the foundation of its wall was jasper; and the city *was* pure gold, like clear glass.
> And the foundations of the wall of the city had been adorned with every precious stone. The first foundation, jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, chalcedony; the fourth, emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, topaz; the tenth, chrysoprasus; the eleventh, hyacinth; the twelfth, amethyst.

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And the twelve gates *were* twelve pearls. Respectively, each one of the gates was one pearl. And the street of the city was pure gold, as transparent glass.

And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty is its temple, even the Lamb.

And the city had no need of the sun, nor of the moon, that they might shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb.

And the nations of those who are saved will walk in the light of it; and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.

And its gates may not be shut at all by day, for there shall be no night there.

And they shall bring the glory and honor of the nations into it.

And there shall in no way enter into it anything that defiles, or any making an abomination or a lie; but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life."

[Revelation21:9-27MKJV].

"And I heard a great voice out of Heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God.

And God will wipe away all tears from their eyes. And there will be no more death, nor mourning, nor crying out, nor will there be any more pain; for the first things passed away.

And He sitting on the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said to me, Write, for these words are true and faithful.

And He said to me, It is done. I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who thirsts I will give of the fountain of the Water of Life freely."

[Revelation21:3-6MKJV].□

No person who is not a great sculptor or painter can be an architect. If he is not a sculpter or painter, he can only be a builder.

John Ruskin
(1819-1900)

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Chapter 15

WRAPPING UP

I remember my youth and the feeling that will never come back any more ... the feeling that I could last forever, outlast the sea, the earth, and all men

Joseph Conrad
(1857-1924)

A few thoughts in closing:

1. Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism

1.1 INTRODUCTION. Classical Evolutionary Theory has been discredited to such an extent lately that any Darwinian brand of Creation with all its telltale (unfalsifiable) tenets incorporating "billions and millions of years" will, in future, have to find alternative ways to build its arguments on, i.e., something else besides Darwin, should it wish to remain viable in the market for old earth creation models of note.

1.2 GREATER & SMALLER MIRACLES? As alluded to earlier, Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists appear to have a problem with the Genesis Creation Account as interpreted by the Biblical (Young Earth) creationists for the simple reason that they, it would seem, entertain the view that a creation model espousing a creation (the Cosmos) over a span of only six ordinary days of 24 hours each only 6 000 years ago should be considered (for God to perform) a greater (more difficult) miracle than a creation model espousing a creation (the Cosmos) over a span of 13.8 billion years.

Since God is omnipotent (and omniscient and omnipresent), from His point of view, however, there could be no such things as greater or smaller miracles, or

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difficult or easy miracles. It stands to reason that, for God to speak a Cosmos of this stupendous size into existence by the words of His mouth, should be equally as easy (or equally as difficult) as changing water into wine or multiplying loaves and fishes on a sunny morning in Galilee.

The question is: What makes the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists think that creating a Cosmos in 13.8 billion years would be easier for (an Almighty, Omnipotent, Omniscient) God than creating a Cosmos in six ordinary days of 24 hours each only 6 000 years ago? I find that logic quite puzzling. For instance, satirically speaking, what would be easier to do ... baking a delicious carrot cake in 35 minutes or in 35 years? Mathematically speaking, wouldn't longer time exacerbate the challenges and problems associated with the creation of a Cosmos instead of diminishing them?

1.3 DILEMMA WITH THE MIRACLES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists have a dilemma with the miracles of the Old Testament: Either they will have to reject the miracles of the Old Testament (such as the burning bramble bush, the ten plagues of Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, the multiplying of flour and oil for the poor widow, the floating axe, the earth standing still for almost a whole day, the shadow on the sundial going back by 10 degrees on the word of the prophet, the healing of Naaman from leprosy by him diving seven times into the Jordan river etc.) as "metaphorical", "psychosomatic", "mythical" and even "poetic" in order to accommodate the 13.8 billion years (Cosmos) creation model; or, they will have to accept the historicity and authenticity of those miracles (including the miracle of a six day Creation) as actual miracles at face value in the true, historical sense of the word; they can't have their carrot cake and eat it, i.e., they cannot accept some miracles as "kosher" and "legal theological tender", but never the obvious miracle of the Genesis Creation Week.

1.4 DILEMMA WITH THE NEW TESTAMENT MIRACLES. Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists will likewise either have to dismiss all the miracles of the New Testament (including the resurrection of Jesus Christ) as "mythical", "metaphorical", "psychosomatic", "poetic" or "exagerated Jewish mythology" etc., or, alternatively, accept the Genesis Creation Account's (so-called) miraculous six day creation only about 6 000 years ago as credible and historically true; they can't have it both ways. The logic and theology behind the belief that an ordinary six-day Creation of 24 hours each (about 6 000 years ago) must have presented an "easier" challenge for the Creator than, for instance, a Creation spanning 13.8 billion years, will never cease to baffle, fascinate and perplex.

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With an omnipotent God who can multiply loaves and fishes from a little basket of loaves and fishes at will for literally thousands to eat how, can there ever be such a thing as an "easy" miracle for God? Which begs the question: How do most Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists view all the miracles of the Bible?

1.5 DILEMMA WITH THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST AND THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH. The main objection of Darwinian minded creationists appears to be the problem with that obnoxious elephant in the room, i.e., the Laws of Physics (Science). The argument apparently goes that, since modern science and the laws of physics do not scientifically support the miracles of the Bible, Christians will have to scale the Biblical miracles down to reports that have to be "metaphorically"/"poetically" etc. interpreted as ancient Jewish folklore and myth at best.

Now here is the dilemma: When Jesus Christ comes, or when the New Heaven and New Earth (Revelation Chapter 21) finally arrives, how is the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists going to explain such events in terms of that moment's "contemporary physics and science"? Or, do Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists not believe in the Second Coming, and the promise of a New Heaven and the New Earth? Furthermore, does anyonw know what "modern science" is going to look like a thousand years from today?

Furthermore, will the creation of the New Heaven and New Earth again need 13.8 billion years for completion this second time around? I certainly hope not, for, if Jesus Christ only began to work on the preparation of a place in Heaven for believers about 1 990 to 2 000 years ago (John14:1-4) then we have a very long wait for the New Heaven ahead of us, i.e., something in the region of 13.8 billion (minus 2 000) years.

Do Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists honestly believe they can fit a "billions of years" creation model (scientifically by the application of the laws of physics) into the Biblical narrative, not only of the Genesis Creation Week, but also of the Second Coming and the New Heaven and New Earth, as presented by the Book of Revelation; or, will the New Heaven and New Earth prospect also of necessity have to be interpreted as 'metaphorical', 'poetic', 'mythical' etc. as part of the Jewish folklore of the Bible?

2. Main Moral Objections to Darwinian Creationism

2.1 AN IDEOLOGICAL COMPROMISE. Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationism ("Creative Evolution"), i.e., the belief that God must have used Evolution as a tool, instrument or process to create the Universe with and

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thereafter with which also to manage and maintain it, creates the impression that it was developed by Evolution-minded members of the church in order to (i) patronise and pacify the tithe-paying evolutionists in the church while, at the same time, (ii) trying to impress mainstream science (atheists & agnostics) how scientifically avant garde and progressive the modern church really is.

2.2 THE BIG BANG. Most Christians will probably tell us that they have never seen 'nothing' (like a 'singularity') explode into 'everything' (the Cosmos), or have seen how one man had created himself out of 'nothing' and then went on to, over "millions of years" also miraculously evolved into his mother-in-law, his wife and the rest of humanity too ... I certainly haven't. The chicken obviously must have arrived first, for I also have never seen the egg of a chicken hatch itself without help from its keepers.

So, unless God did it, there is no way Evangelical Christians in favour of Biblical (Young Earth) Creationism will buy into this theory any time soon. We obviously do not deny the fine-tuning of the Universe (for Creation) by the Creator, or that the Creation Week must have been a noisy affair; but, too many planets and moons rotating in the wrong (opposite) direction of the others probably make such an explosion from a single, centralised point in the Cosmos unlikely. Also, the Big Bang puts the sun first and the earth after, while the Bible puts the earth first and the sun after.

For the Big Bang Theory to survive as a viable explanation for the first moments of Creation it may need to be revisited and perhaps totally overhauled, bearing in mind that in the final analysis it still must have been God who did it anyway; there is no way brainless and dumb Evolution would have pulled off such a magnificent Creation without professional help, "Big Bang" or no bang at all.

2.3 SUSPECT 'FALSIFIABILITY'. Unfalsifiable data is not science. Evolutonists (including Darwinian creationists) have fallen into the objectionable habit of presenting so-called "evidence" for Evolution founded on a preponderance of unfalsifiable data, for instance:

2.3.1 **Cosmological Evolution.** No one can travel back in time "billions of years" to go and verify the claims of the evolutionists over the (alleged) age of the Universe, currently standing at "13.8 billion years". Real science demands falsifiable data/information. Evolutionists often ridicule Christians and Biblical (Young Earth) creationists for building their hopes on an ancient, obsolete Book of Jewish myths, legends and folklore (called the "Bible") only a few thousand years old, while they themselves put their hopes on unfalsifiable information allegedly "billions of years" old; so, who

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are the really antiquated ones here? Don't they realise that, when they look at a galaxy 100 light-years away, they are seeing not that galaxy, but the ghost of that galaxy the way it (supposedly, hypothetically) must have looked like 100 years ago? Astronomers have no inkling what that galaxy looks like in real-time (today); so, again: Who really are the antiquated ones here? Do the math: Imagine the situation with galaxies millions and billions of of light-years away ... what are they really seeing or what will they really be seeing were it possible with the aid of current technology?

2.3.2 **Geological Evolution.** No one can go travel back in time "billions of years " to go and verify the claims of the evolutionists over the (alleged) age of the Earth, currently standing at (they say) "4.54 billion" years. Real science demands falsifiable data/information. Considering the susceptibility of planet earth to erosion and the onslaught of the weather over time, wouldn't planet earth, at the speed of 107 000 k.p.h in its orbit around the sun, by now have been as smooth as a billiard ball after 4.54 billion years of relentless orbiting around the sun? Yet, it is everything but.

Christians build their hope on the Word of God only a few millenniums old, while the evolutionists and Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists build their hopes on a surmised geological history allegedly "4.54 billion years" old. Honestly ... who really are the antiquated ones here?

2.3.3. **Biological Evolution (The "Fossil Record").** Paleontologists have been collecting fossils allegedly "millions of years" old for decades; so, again, building their hopes on (unfalsifiable) data/information "millions of years old". No one can travel back in time "millions of years" to go and verify the claims of the evolutionists over the (alleged) age of fossils. At the risk of perhaps repeating myself: Unfalsifiable data/information is not science; real science demands falsifiable data/information.

As far as we are concerned, fossils were created during the Biblical flood of Noah's day when all kinds of animals and plants, and a few humans too, were buried alive en masse in sediment created by the Flood, resulting in what we know today as "fossil fuel" (oil, coal and gas). Nowhere in the world is that calamity being replicated on such a scale anywhere ... it was a one-time event, unique in the annals of history. Even atheists have conceded that (used up) "fossil fuel" stocks are not replenishable, hence the desperate obsession with alternative energy sources.

Furthermore, where are the fossils for the thousands of intermediary stages (represented by intermediary or transitional fossil fragments) of evolution in species? Where can any sceptic today see evolution in action happening right now?

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2.3.4 **The Geologic Column.** Can evolutionists take us to an incision in planet earth and show us where we can observe firsthand an example of the Geologic Column (Time Scale) exactly as depicted on their fancy wall charts and in their books and encyclopaedias? Does this Geologic Column even exist at all? Has the reader ever seen such an example anywhere? Again ... real science demands falsifiable evidence.

2.3.5 **Scientific grounds for an "Old Creation".** On what scientific grounds do Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists surmise that a "13.8 bilion years" old Creation would have been easier for God to pull off than the creation of a miraculous, young, six-day creation of 24 hours per day only about 6 000 years ago? For an omnipotent God, shouldn't both creation models, anyway, be viewed as equally miraculous? How omnipotent is the God of the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists really?

Is God not omnipotent? (Yes, He is! Attributed to Isaiah). *Can God not do anything?* (Yes, He can! Attributed to Job). *Can God not indeed call things out of the nothing as if they were?* (Yes, He can! Attributed to the Apostle Paul). *Can God not do exceeding abundantly far above what we can pray or think?* (Yes, He can! Attributed to the Apostle Paul). *Are all things not indeed possible for God?* (Yes, they are! Attributed to Jesus Christ).

2.3.6 **The (so-called) "Primordial earth" and (so-called) "pre-Adamite race" theories.** The Book of Revelation clearly teaches that the New Earth will be only the 'second earth' making our current earth thus the 'first earth' (Revelation Chapter 21). So, any idea about some kind of ancient, primordial previous earth, where some primitive, pre-Adamite race of undomesticated ignoramuses must have roamed killing dinosaurs for meat is a figment of the fruitful imagination; the pernicious influence of Hollywood, or the imaginations of Arthur Conan Doyle and of the Spielberg, Kennedy and Molen triad (for 'Jurassic Park') have indeed taken a heavy toll on the minds of men.

There could not have been a pre-Adamite race before Adam was created, as that *would put death before Adam's sin;* and, the Bible teaches that, *before Adam, there anyway was no man to till the ground.* The Bible teaches in no uncertain terms that *Adam was the first man.*

There could not have been a "prehistory" of "pre-historic" races before Adam (before the Biblical "beginning") because Jesus has personally affirmed that (i) Adam and Eve were created male and female "from the beginning", and that (ii) Satan was a liar (and the father of lies) "from the beginning". Just a reminder: The *beginning* was when God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). There never was another "beginning" before that. There was a beginning, but no such thing as a 'pre-beginning'.

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2.3.7 **What to do with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.** The question is: What are the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists going to do with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? If the current physics of the day does not scientifically support and explain the miracles of the Genesis Creation Account and of the Old Testament in general (or of the miracles of Jesus Christ and the New Testament in general) how is the contemporary physics of the day at the Second Coming going to scientifically support and explain that miraculous event? Or, are the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists simply going to stand there, staring stupefiedly up into the spectacle unfolding in deep space and over the earth mumbling, "It cannot be true! It surely must be an optical illusion! The Laws of Physics and Natural Law simply does not support what is happening out there!"(?). Will the *"The Young Earth Creation Model is too good to be true!"* party please explain to us how they view the Second Coming of Jesus Christ?

2.3.8 **What to do with the New Heaven and New Earth?** If Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists have a problem with the miraculous six-day Creation of only 24 hours each about 6 000 years ago, how will the physics of that day, when the New Heaven and New Earth begin to emerge, going to scientifically support and explain that miraculous event?

2.3.9. **Jesus Christ rubbished Evolution with His conduct during His ministry.**

a. The genealogy of Jesus Christ from Adam up to Christ's birth can be accounted for (Luke3:1-38) and it does not make up a timeline of "millions of years"; instead it adds up to only about 6 000 years, and there were no "pre-Adamite people" (or "pre-history") before Adam.

b. Jesus Christ personally affirmed the historicity of the Bible in respect of Adam as the first two created human beings, created "male" and "female" (Matthew Chapter 19). He also affirmed the historicity of the Bible by referring to Noah, the Ark and the flood of Noah's day (Matthew Chapter 24).

c. Jesus Christ changed water into wine, on more than one occasion multiplied the loaves and the fishes, healed the sick, commanded the wind to be still, walked on water, raised dead people from the dead and even rose from the dead Himself, all with complete and almost callous disregard for so-called "physics" and "science"'. If He could have done that during His ministry on earth, and probably will repeat such remarkable feats during the Second Coming, why couldn't He

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have done it during the original Creation at the time of the Genesis Creation Week too? After all was it Jesus Christ who created the worlds and today still maintain it by the word of His power (Hebrews 4:1-4).

d. On the Mount of Transfiguration Jesus Christ was seen in conversation with Moses and Isaiah, two Old Testaments figures already centuries dead; do Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists accept this superb, if not indeed spectacular, miracle as authentic and literally true, or do will they dismiss it as Jewish folklore and mythical, an event to interpreted metaphorically as poetry and the result of the eyewitnesses' (Peter, John & James) delirious, fruitful imaginations?

2.4 A MOMENTOUS DECISION. It would thus appear as if the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists will have to decide between (i) conserving the supernatural, miraculous elements of the Old and New Testaments in the Biblical narrative as historically authentic and valid to be literally interpreted and (ii) dismissing them all as myth, folklore and legend to be interpreted metaphorically, figuratively and poetically ... thus expunging them mentally as historically and culturally obsolete and theologically irrelevant.

They should be careful, however, should they dismiss or expunge too soon ... to be consistent, the first miracle they probably would have to discard would be the miracle of that Bible in their hands. Even were they to keep the Bible, they would probably have to expunge (at best) the entirety of the 'Faith' chapter anyway (Hebrews Chapter 11) or (at worst) most of the New Testament Epistles and all the miracles of the Bible. After they had finished with expunging the disagreeable parts form the Bible, the Bible will probably have been reduced to a flimsy pamphlet.

Evangelical Christians who support a Biblical (Young Earth) Creation have, on the other hand, committed themselves to the point-of-departure of the Creation of the Cosmos and the earth and its peoples and animals etc. as a transcendent historical event orchestrated transcendently by God the Father through His de facto Projects Engineer, Jesus Christ. The miraculous element in Creation cannot and should not, like a bad dream, be reasoned or wished away. The existence of the Cosmos and people on earth staring at the majestic stars each night already is a remarkable miracle in anyone's book ... so get over it. As alluded to before, during the 1940s one day, in the Old Fort prison in Johannesburg, South Africa and languishing on death row, a lone convict once wrote:

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Tho' my heart is bruised and riven,
And, my soul is scathed with scars;
Yet, I've touched the fringe of heaven;
I've lived among the stars.

(Herman Charles Bosman
1905-1951)

As for Creation, a simple analogy could be where I decided to create an eBook electronically in the cyber space of the Internet only to finally, a few months later, hold a hard copy of the eBook in my hand after print. Likewise, this Cosmos was probably conceived in 'Heavenly Cyberspace' (whatever it entails) long before this world (i.e., time, space and matter) as we know it ever existed and then, during the Creation Week of Genesis Chapter 1, God pressed a button (this time really metaphorically speaking) and the 'hard copy' (this Cosmos in all its majestic and stupendous splendour and glory) popped out right in front of His very eyes ... ever heard of Divine 3D Printing? And, even if God had not done it that way, I would still be adamant enough to insist that He could have done it that way if He really had wanted to.

Why would time and distance pose a problem for God when angels in His employ (in the Bible) appear to have been crisscrossing this Universe in a matter of zeptoseconds (if not indeed instantly) for centuries? *A zeptosecond is a trillionth of a billionth of a second, or a decimal point followed by 20 zeroes and a 1* (Livescience.com). This is what one zeptosecond would look like in figures:

0.00000000000000000001
(one zeptosecond)

For all we know, God could have called the world into existence in only six zeptoseconds (and 'rested' on the seventh), but there surely must have been a good reason why it was done in six days, and we do not aim to call His superior judgement into question, bearing in mind that the phenomenon of the seven-day week was never derived or deduced from any astronomical observation or principle, but exclusively from the Bible:

> "It *is* a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever. For in six days Jehovah made the heavens and the earth, and on the seventh day He rested, and was refreshed ... You shall work six days but on the seventh day you shall rest. In plowing time and in harvest you shall rest."
> [Exodus31:17; 34:21MKJV].

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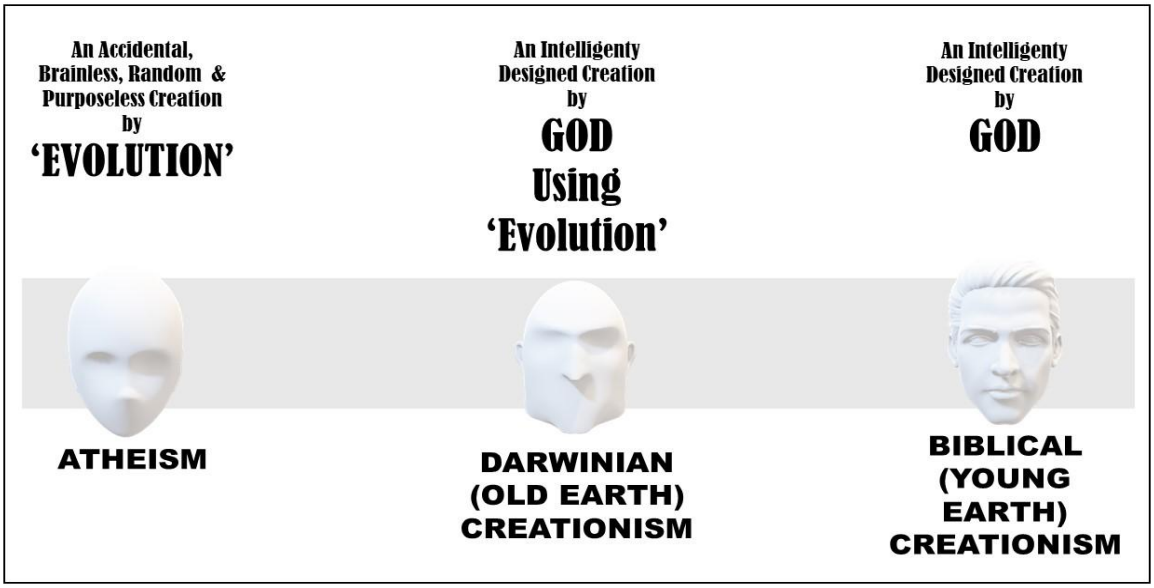
3. Fitting "Creative Evolution" into the Bible



3.1 INTRODUCTION. To avoid charges of presenting a 'false dichotomy', I have developed a little sliding scale above incorporating the major three creation models I am of the opinion relevant for this discussion today; obviously I cannot even remotely try to accommodate all the various worldviews representing just about every religion or secularist society on earth.

3.2 EXPLORING THE SCENARIOS.

3.2.1 A. **Supposing the Creation Model 'Intelligently Designed by God' were TRUE.** In this scenario there would be INTELLIGENT DESIGN but no EVOLUTION, and the world would have been created exactly as the Bible teaches, i.e., miraculously intelligently designed and created by the omnipotent Creator of heaven and earth, i.e., (Jehovah) Yahweh of the Bible.

3.2.1 B. **Supposing the Creation Model 'Intelligently Designed by God' were FALSE.** In this scenario either the scenario 'Atheism', or the scenario 'Intelligently Designed by God using Evolution' would be TRUE.

3.2.2. A. **Supposing the Creation Model 'Intelligently Designed by God using Evolution' were TRUE.** In this scenario there would be EVOLUTION but NO ATHEISM.

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3.2.2 B. **Supposing the Creation Model 'Intelligently Designed by God using Evolution' were FALSE.** In this scenario either the Creation Model 'Intelligently Designed by God' or the Creation Model 'Atheism' would be TRUE.

3.2.3 A. **Supposing the Creation Model 'Atheism' were TRUE.** In this scenario there would be EVOLUTION but NO GOD.

3.2.3 B. **Supposing the Creation Model 'Atheism' were FALSE.** In this scenario there would be a GOD but NO EVOLUTION.

3.3 CONCLUSION. Bear in mind that atheists (secular humanists) in principle do not believe in Absolute Truth (the ultimate or epitome of Truth, i.e., God) except for (oxymoronically, paradoxically) the 'absolute truth' of Atheism. So, when an atheist speaks (debates, teaches, writes) how on earth are we to believe he is speaking the absolute truth? Be that as it may, it is interesting how the creation model of Atheism has panned out in the above experiment:

3.3.1 Should ATHEISM be TRUE, there would be EVOLUTION but NO GOD.

3.3.2. Should ATHEISM be FALSE, there would be a GOD but NO EVOLUTION

3.3.3. The Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists' dilemma: With the scenario *Atheism is True* there would be *no God;* and, with the scenario *Atheism is False* there would be *no Evolution.* So, it does not matter which way one looks at it, i.e., whether the creation model of Atheism were either found to be true or found to be false, the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists are left with a creation model in which either *God* or *Evolution* is missing in the equation they need for their model to be viable as a theory.

The Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists' only hope to remain viable is (i) to disregard the atheists completely which will leave the (ii) other group as the only contenders left. The problem is that the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists are not planning to disregard the atheists, because they are enclined to mystifyingly show up at the same seminars, congresses, conventions and lectures about Darwinism as the atheists, making one wonder: Had Charles Darwin never existed, would the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists ever have thought of an Old Earth model themselves?

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4. Back to Basics: The Law of Creatorship

4.1 GOD IS OMNIPOTENT: GET OVER IT! Please bear in mind that, since God can anything and nothing would be impossible for Him to do, it is totally possible for Him to, technically speaking, have created a Cosmos either over 13.8 billion years, or, over six ordinary days of 24 hours each about 6 000 years ago (take your pick); to deny that for either case would be plum silly, for He is the Almighty ... period. It is also entirely possible that both the two schools of thought may be wrong, or in error in some way or another.

4.2 FAITH LIKE A CHILD. My submission is, however, that Christians should avoid the postmodernists' propensity for interpreting the miraculous in the Bible as poetry, myth or Jewish folklore and, instead, return to the basics of taking the Bible at face value and believing the Bible with the faith of a little child. It is our submission that the Genesis Creation Account is depicting, albeit depicting in somewhat ancient, archaic terms, a six day Creation Week comprising six ordinary weekdays of 24 hours each, since the "24 hours" term possibly could mean a type of planet that completes one full rotation every 24 hours, whether there was a sun present to show it up or not, after Light had been first created. The sun does not *cause* the rotation of the earth; it only *reveals* the rotation of the earth. Interestingly, the planet Pluto reportedly completes one full rotation in 6.5 earth days, while the sunlight it receives amounts to less than 1% of what is received on planet earth; so, in Pluto's case, the sun is revealing just about nothing about the rotation of Pluto.

Of course there is a lot of metaphor in the Bible; for instance, when the Bible says that God sits as Ruler over heaven and earth, it is obvious that it is metaphorically intended; no God of the calibre of the YHWH (Yahweh) of Moses worth His salt is going to sit idle all day long with so much to do. But, it would be entirely reasonable (and not wrong) for a little child to, in his mind's eye, see God sitting in Heaven, for, after all, God has a Throne too, hence the Great White Throne Judgment to come. Jesus Christ has warned in no uncertain terms:

> "If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things?"
>
> [John3:12MKJV].

> "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you, Moses, in whom you trust. For if you had believed Moses, you would have believed Me, for he wrote of Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how shall you believe My Words?"

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[John5:45-47MKJV].

> "And because I tell *you* the truth, you do not believe Me."
>
> [John8:45MKJV].

> "And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
>
> [John11:26MKJV].

> "And shall not God avenge His own elect who cry day and night to Him, though He has been long-suffering over them? I say to you that He will avenge them speedily. Yet when the Son of Man comes, shall He find faith on the earth?"
>
> [Luke18:7-8MKJV].

4.3 INTRODUCING THE LAW OF CREATORSHIP. The Laws of Physics, respected by so many rational academics, scientists, and researchers today, have, in the past century or so, revealed some interesting surprises to the discerning and inquisitive mind, which brings me to the theme of this paragraph, i.e., *The Law of Creatorship.*

This suggests that the baker of a cake (or chef, cook, caterer, housewife etc.) himself or herself will always be *more complex* and *more intelligent* than his or her product (e.g. the cake etc.) or object of manufacture. The biochemist will, e.g., be more complex and intelligent than the sophisticated laboratory she has installed for her company; the industrial or project engineer will be more complex and intelligent than the ore beneficiation plant he has designed; the nuclear scientist will be more complex and intelligent than his nuclear plant generating electricity for a state or country.

When any reasonable person thus looks up at the beauty and majesty of the Cosmos and its galaxies (and galaxy-clusters) draped like gorgeous chandeliers millions of light-years wide, or considers the Laws of Physics comprising such phenomena as *Universal Gravitation,* the *Strong & Weak Nuclear Forces* in quantum physics, the *Electromagnetic Spectrum*, *Acoustics,* and the *Periodic Table of Elements*, he or she stands amazed at the superlative designing intelligence behind it all. The Bible teaches that God's de facto projects engineer, Jesus Christ, has created the Cosmos:

> "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."
>
> [Hebrews1:1-2KJV].

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Thus, considering the complexities, beauties, order (hence, 'Cosmos') and grand (stupendous) design and majesty of Creation, imagine the beauty, majesty and awesome of the mysterious brain capacity and intellect (with the assumed I.Q. of INFINITY^{infinity}) behind the solid fact of the visible Universe (surely far more complex, intelligent, and beautiful than His Creation), never mind the invisible, transfinite, or metaphysical realms of the great unknown still awaiting discovery. So, if the Law of Creatorship were valid, why would this majestic, complex, and stupendously beautiful Cosmos have had such a dumb, meaningless, and purposeless 'creator' like brainless Evolution? The great YHWH (Yahweh or Jehovah) of Moses has solemnly declared:

> "I have made the earth, and created man on it; I with My hands have stretched out the heavens; and all their host have I commanded."
> [Isaiah45:12].

4.4 THE PATIENCE OF GOD. Many people, including even some Christians, may make the mistake of interpreting God's patience as moral weakness, a grave error indeed. The Bible says:

> "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
> [2Peter3:9KJV].

> "Or despises thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"
> [Romans2:4KJV].

In other words, God's patience with us as human beings should never be construed as weakness but as designed to guide us to repentance and salvation.

> "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation ..."
> [2Peter3:15a].

4.5 HOW SECULAR HUMANISTS AND DARWINIAN CREATIONISTS ARE ROBBING GOD OF HIS GLORY. The Bible says:

> "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth ... And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."
> [Genesis1:1; 2:7].

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a. **Secular Humanists:** "Dumb, brainless Evolution created the Universe over 13.8 billion years by sheer random accident, from nothing and with nothing, without any (intelligently designed) reason or purpose in mind ... there is no 'God'."

b. **Darwinian (Old Earth) Creationists:** "God probably used Evolution with which to create the Universe and mankind over 13.8 billion years ... the Genesis Creation Account must be interpreted metaphorically or poetically since it is derived from obsolete Jewish tradition, myth and legend."

c. **Biblical (Young Earth) Creationists:** "God probably created the Universe in six days of 24 hours each about 6 000 years ago, according to the Genesis Creation Account."

> "For truly I say to you, Till the heaven and the earth pass away, not one jot or one tittle shall in any way pass from the Law until all is fulfilled. Therefore whoever shall relax one of these commandments, the least, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven. For I say to you that unless your righteousness shall exceed *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven.
>
> [Matthew5:18-20MKJV].

5. Conclusion

Were the Darwinian (Old Earth) creationists ever found to have been wrong, they will have been found wrong on the basis of underestimating the omnipotence of YHWH (Jahweh, Jehovah) of Moses and Mt. Sinai. Were the Biblical (Young Earth) creationists ever found to have been wrong, they will have been found wrong on the basis of overestimating the omnipotence of YHWH (Jahweh, Jehovah) of Moses and Mt. Sinai. I, for one, would rather err on the positive than on the negative side.□

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ATTACHMENT A: THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS CHRIST

"And Jesus Himself was beginning to be about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) *the* son of Joseph, *the son* of Heli,

the son of Matthat, *the son* of Levi, *the son* of Melchi, *the son* of Janna, *the son* of Joseph,

the son of Mattathias, *the son* of Amos, *the son* of Nahum, *the son* of Esli, *the son* of Naggai,

the son of Maath, *the son* of Mattathias, *the son* of Semei, *the son* of Joseph, *the son* of Juda,

the son of Joanna, *the son* of Rhesa, *the son* of Zerubbabel, *the son* of Shealtiel, *the son* of Neri,

the son of Melchi, *the son* of Addi, *the son* of Cosam, *the son* of Elmodam, *the son* of Er,

the son of Joses, *the son* of Eliezer, *the son* of Jorum, *the son* of Matthat, *the son* of Levi,

the son of Simeon, *the son* of Juda, *the son* of Joseph, *the son* of Jonan, *the son* of Eliakim,

the son of Melea, the son of Menan, *the son* of Mattatha, *the son* of Nathan, *the son* of David,

the son of Jesse, *the son* of Obed, *the son* of Boaz, *the son* of Salma, *the son* of Nahshon,

the son of Amminadab, *the son* of Ram, *the son* of Hezron, *the son* of Pharez, *the son* of Judah,

the son of Jacob, *the son* of Isaac, *the son* of Abraham, *the son* of Terah, *the son* of Nahor,

the son of Serug, *the son* of Reu, *the son* of Peleg, *the son* of Eber, *the son* of Shelah,

the son of Cainan, *the son* of Arphaxad, *the son* of Shem, *the son* of Noah, *the son* of Lamech,

the son of Methuselah, *the son* of Enoch, *the son* of Jared, *the son* of Mahalaleel, *the son* of Cainan,

the son of Enos, *the son* of Seth, *the son* of **Adam**, *the son* of God.

[Luke3:1-38MKJV].□

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ATTACHMENT B: THE NAMES & TITLES OF JESUS CHRIST

A

Advocate With the Father 1 Jhn.2:1
Almighty Rev.1:8
Alpha & Omega (Gk. A&Z, Beginning & Ending) Rev.1:8; Rev.22:13
Amen, The (Heb. So be it/So it is) Rev.3:14
Angel Gen.48:16; Exod.23:20,21
Angel of His Presence Isa.63:9
Anointed One (His) (See Christ/Messiah/Shiloh) Ps.2:2
Apostle of Our Profession, The (Gk. Apostolos – One sent forth) Heb.3:1
Arm of the Lord Isa.51:9
Author & Finisher of Our Faith, The Heb.12:2

B

Beginning & End (Gk. A-Z) (See Alpha & Omega) Rev.1:8; Rev.22:13
Beginning of the Creation of God Rev.3:14
Beloved Ephes.1:6
Beloved Son Luke9:35; 1Cor4:17; 2Peter1:17
Blessed And Only Potentate 1 Tim.6:15
Branch, The Zch.3:8
Bread Of Life Jhn.6:48
Bridegroom, The Matt.9:15
Bright And Morning Star, The Rev.22:16
Brightness Of His (the Father's) Glory, The Heb.1:3
Bringing Many Sons unto Glory (See Isa.9:6) Heb.2:10
Brother Of James, Juda, Joses & Simon Mrk.6:3

C

Captain Of Salvation Heb.2:10
Captain Of the Host of The Lord Jos.5:14
Carpenter, The Mrk.6:3

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Carpenter's Son, The Matt.13:55
Chiefest Among Ten Thousand,
The SongofSolomon.5:10
Chief Shepherd, The 1 Pet.5:4
Child (A) Isa.9:6
Child Jesus, The Luk.2:27
Christ (Gk. Anointed
One; Matt.1:16; Servant of The
Lord. See Messiah) Mrk.14:61
Christ A King Luk.23:2
Christ Jesus Acts 19:4; Rom.3:24; 8:1;
16:3; 1 Cor.1:2;30; Heb.3:1;1
Pet.5:10,14;1
Tim.1:15.
Christ Jesus Our Lord 1 Tim.1:12;
Rom.8:39
Christ of God, The Luk.9:20
Christ of the Lord Luk.2:26
Christ Our Passover 1 Cor.5:7
Christ the Chosen One of God Luk.23:35
Christ The Lord Luk.2:11
Commander to the People Isa.55:4
Consolation Of Israel Luk.2:25
Cornerstone (Chief), The Ephes.2:20;
Matt.21:42
Counsellor Isa.9:6
Covenant Of the People Isa.42:6
Creator Of Israel, The Isa.43:15
Crown of Glory and Diadem of
Beauty unto the Residue of His People,
Isa.28:5

D

David, King of Israel and Judah Jer.30:9
Daysman Betwixt Us, A (Mediator) Job
9:33
Dayspring From on High Luk.1:78
Door Of the Sheep, The Jhn.10:7
Day Star, The 2 Pet.1:19

E

Elect, Precious & Chief Cornerstone 1
Pet.2:6

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Elect (God's) Isa.42:1
Emmanuel (Gk. God With Us) Matt.1:23
Ensign Of the People, An Isa.11:10
Eternal Life 1 Jhn.5:20
Everlasting Father (See Heb.2:10) Isa.9:6
Everlasting Light Isa.60:20
Express Image of His (God's)
Person Heb.1:3

F
Faithful & True Rev.19:11
Faithful & True Witness Rev.3:14
Faithful Witness Rev.1:5
Fear and Dread of Israel Isa.8:13
First And Last Rev.22:13; Rev.1:17
Rev.2:8; Isa.48:12
First Begotten of the Dead Rev.1:5
Firstbegotten Into the World Heb.1:6
Firstborn Higher Than the Kings of the
Earth Ps.89:27
Forerunner, The Heb.6:20
Friend Of Publicans & Sinners,
Matt.11:19

G
Gift Of God, The Jhn.4:10
Gin & Snare to Inhabitants of
Jerusalem Isa.8:14
Glory of the People Israel Luk.2:32
God (Heb. 'Worshipful One'; 'Lord';
'Jehovah': Heb.Yahweh, YHWH, 'The
Existing One'; 'Elohim'; Ps.45,7,8;'Mighty
One'; 'Master') Jhn.1:1; Heb.1:8,9
God Believed on in the World 1 Tim.3:16
God Blessed Forever Rom.9:5
God Justified in the Spirit 1 Tim.3:16
God Manifested in the Flesh 1 Tim.3:16
God of Israel Isa.45:15
God of the Whole Earth, The Isa.54:5
God Our Saviour 1 Tim.2:3
God Preached unto the Gentiles 1
Tim.3:16
God Received up into Glory 1 Tim.3:16

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God Seen of Angels 1 Tim.3:16
God's Fellow Zch.13:7
God's Holy One Ps.16:10
God's Servant Israel Isa.49:3
God With Us
(See Emmánuel/Immánuel) Matt.1:23
Good Master Matt.19:16
Governor for Israel (A) Matt.2:6
Great God and Our Saviour Jesus
Christ Tit.2:13
Great High Priest, A Heb.4:14
Great Shepherd of the Sheep,
The Heb.13:20

H

Head of Every Man, The 1 Cor.11:3
Head of the Church Ephes.5:23; Col.1:18
Head of the Corner Matt.21:42; 1 Pet.2:7
Heir of All Things Heb.1:2
He That Hath the Key of David Rev.3:7

He That Is Holy Rev.3:7
He That Is True Rev.3:7
He That Openeth, and No Man
Shutteth Rev.3:7
He That Shutteth, and No Man
Openeth Rev.3:7
High Priest, An Heb.8:1
High Priest Forever After the Order of
Melchisedec Heb.6:20
High Priest of Our Profession Heb.3:1
Him Which Is, and Which Was, and
Which Is to Come Rev.1:4
His (God's) Dear Son Col.1:13
Holy And Just One Acts 3:14
Holy Child Jesus, The LORD's Acts 4:30
Holy One of God, The Mrk.1:24
Holy One of Israel,
The Isa.41:14; 49:7; 54:5
Holy One (Your) Isa.43:15
Holy Thing, That (Heb. Separated
One) Luk.1:35
Horn of Our Salvation

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(See Salvation) Luk.1:69

I

I Am Jhn.8:58
Immánuel (Heb. God With Us) Isa.7:14;
Matt.1:23

J

Jehovah (See God) Exod.6:3; Ps.83:18;
Isa.12:2; 26:4
Jehovah-Jireh (God Who
Provides) Gen.22:14
Jehovah-Nissi (God Is My
Banner) Exod.17:15
Jehovah-Shalom (God Is Peace) Judg.6:24
Jesus (Heb.Yeshuah,
Saviour) Matt.1:16;1:21
Jesus Christ (See Christ) Matt.1:1;
Jhn.1:17; Acts
2:38; Rom.1:1; 1 Cor.2:2; 2Cor.1:19;
Gal.2:16;
Phil.1:8; Heb.13:8; 1 Jhn.1:7 etc.
Jesus Christ Our Lord Rom.1:3
Jesus Christ Our Saviour Tit.3:6
Jesus Christ the Righteous 1 Jhn.2:1
Jesus, King of the Jews Matt.27:37
Jesus of Nazareth Mrk.1:24; Luk.24:19
Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the
Jews Jhn.19:19
Jesus, Son of Joseph Jhn.6:42
Jesus the Christ Matt.16:20
Jesus the Son of God Heb.4:14
Judge, Our Isa.33:22
Judge of the Quick (Living) And the Dead,
The Acts 10:42
Judge of Israel Mic.5:1
Just Man, That Matt27:19

K

King, the Lord our Isa.33:22
King, Your Isa.43.15
King David their Jer.30:9
King of Glory Ps.24:9,10

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King of Israel Jhn.1:49
KING of Kings 1 Tim.6:15 Rev.17:14; 19:16
King of the Daughter of Zion Matt.21:5
King of the Jews, Jesus of Nazareth, The (See Nazarene) Jhn.19:19
King Over All the Earth Zch.14:9

L

Lamb Rev.5:6,8; 6:16; 7:9,10,17; 12:11; 13:8;14:1,4; 15:3; 17:14; 19:7,9; 21:9,14,22,23,27
Lamb Of God Jhn.1:29
Last Adam, The 1 Cor.15:45
Lawgiver, Our Isa.33:22
Leader And Commander to the People Isa.55:4
Light of life Jhn.8:12
Light of the Gentiles Isa.42:6
Lily of the Valley Song of Solomon 2:1
Living Bread That Came Down from Heaven, The Jhn.6:51
Living One That Has the Keys of Hell and Death Rev.1:18
Living Stone 1 Pet.2:4
Light of the World, The Jhn.8:12
Light To Lighten the Gentiles, And the Glory of Thy People Israel Luk.2:32
Lion And Lord Out of the Tribe of Judah Heb.7:14; Rev.5:5
Lord, The (See God) Isa.40:3
Lord From Heaven, The 1 Cor.15:47
Lord God Almighty Rev.15:3
Lord Jehovah, The Isaiah12:2
Lord Jesus Acts7:59/Col.3:17/1 Thess.4:2
Lord Jesus Christ 1 Cor.1:2,3; Acts 11:17 Rom.5:1,11; Acts16:31; 20:21
Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of Glory Jas.2:1
Lord Jesus Christ Our Saviour Tit.1:4
Lord Mighty in Battle Ps.24:8
Lord of All Acts10:36; Rom.10:12
Lord of Both the Dead and Living

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Rom.14:9
LORD of Lords 1 Tim.6:15; Rev.17:14; 19:16
Lord of the Hosts Ps.24:10 Isa.54:5
Lord of the Sabbath Mrk.2:28
Lord Our Righteousness, The Jer.23:6
Lord's Christ, The Luke.2:26

M
Maker Of Jacob & Israel Isa.44:2
Man Christ Jesus, The 1 Tim.2:5
Man of Sorrows & Acquainted with Grief Isa.53:3
Man, That Is God's Fellow Zch.13:7
Master
(See Rabbi/Rabboni/God) Matt.23:8
Mediator Between God and Man, One 1 Tim.2:5
Messenger of the Covenant Mal.3:1
Messiah (Heb. Anointed One. See Christ). Jhn.1:41
Messiah the Prince, The Dan.9:25
Mighty God, The Isa.9:6
Mighty One of Jacob, The Isa.49:26
Mighty One of Israel, The Isa.30:29
Mighty to Save Isa.63:1
Minister of the Sanctuary & True Tabernacle, A Heb.8:2
Most Holy Dan.9:24
Most Mighty Ps.45:3

N
Nazaréne, A
(From Nazáreth, not Nazarite) Matt.2:23

O
Only Begotten of the Father Jhn.1:14
Only Begotten Son Which Is in the Bosom of the Father, The Jhn.1:18
Only Wise God Our Saviour, The Jud.1:25

Our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ 2 Pet.1:11; 2 Pet.3:18

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Our Passover, Christ 1Cor5:7
Our Peace (He Is) Ephes.2:14

P

Petra (Gk. Rock) Matt.16:18
Physician, A Matt.9:12
Power Of God, The 1 Cor.1:24
Precious Cornerstone, A Chief, Elect, A Tried, Sure Foundation 1 Pet.2:6; Isa.28:16
Priest Forever After the Order of Melchisedec Heb.7:17
Prince (Messiah The) Dan.9:25
Prince of Life, The Acts 3:15
Prophet, A Deut.18:15,18; Luk.24:19
Prophet of Nasareth of Galilee, The Matt.21:11
Propitiation For Our Sins 1 Jhn.2:2
Prince of Peace, The Isa.9:6; Gen.49:10 (see Shiloh)
Prince of the Kings of the Earth, The Rev.1:5

Q

Quickening Spirit, The Last Adam was made a 1 Cor.15:45

R

Rabbi (Ch./Heb. Eminent One; Teacher) Jhn.1:49
Rabboni (Aram. /Heb./Gk.) (“Master!”) Jhn.20:16
Ransom For All to Be Tested in Due Time 1 Tim.2:6
Redeemer and Holy One of Israel Isa.41:14; 48:17; 54:5
Resurrection and Life, The Jhn.11:25
Righteous Servant (God's) Isa.53:11
Righteous Judge, The 2 Tim.4:8
Righteous Branch, A Jer.23:5
Rock (Gk. Petra) Matt.16:18
Rock (Spiritual) 1 Cor.10:4
Root & Offspring of David, The Rev.5:5;

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Rev.22:16
Root of Jesse, A Isa.11:10
Root Out of a Dry Ground, As a Isa.53:2
Root of David, The Rev.5:5; 22:16
Rose of Sharon. The SongofS.2:1

S

Salvation/Salvation unto the End of the Earth, My (Heb. Prosperity) Isa.49:6; Luk.2:30
Sanctuary, A Isa.8:14
Saviour Isa.49:26; Matt.1:21; Ephes.5:23; Luk. 2:11; 2 Tim.1:10; Tit.2:13; 1Joh.4:14 Isa.43:3,11; 45:15
Sceptre Out of Israel Num.24:17
Second Man the Lord from Heaven, The 1 Cor.15:47
Seed of Judah (See Shiloh) Gen.49:10
Seed of the Woman, The Gen.3:15
Servant the Branch, God's Zch.3:8; Isa.42:1
Servant of Rulers Isa.49:7
Shepherd and Bishop of Our Souls, The 1 Pet.2:25
Shepherd of Israel Ps.80:1
Shiloh (Heb. Anointed One; Prince of Peace); (See Seed of Judah) Gen.49:10
Son (A) Isa.9:6
Son of a Carpenter ('Carpenter's Son') Matt.13:55
Son of David Matt.9:27
Son of God Ps.2:7; 89:27
Matt.3:17; 4:3,6; 11:27; 14:33
Mrk.1:1; 1:11; 3:11; 5:7; 9:7; 14:61,62; 15:39
Luk.1:32,35; 3:22; 4:3,9; 8:28; 9:35; 10:22; 20:13; 22:29,70
Jhn.1:1,2,14,18,34,49; 3:16,17,18,34,35,36; 5:19,20,21,23,26,27,30,32,36,37; 6:27,38,40,46,57,69; 7:16,28,29; 8:16,19,26,27,28,29,38,40,42,49, 54; 9:35,36,37,38

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Acts3:13,26
2Cor.1:3,19
Gal.1:16; 4:4
Ephes.1:3; 3:14
Col.1:19
Rom.1:3,4,9; 8:3,29,32
1Cor.1:9; 15:24
1Thess.1:10
Heb.1:1,2,3,5; 4:14; 5:5,8,10; 6:6; 7:3;
10:29
2Pet.1:17
1Jhn.1:7; 2:22,23,24; 3:8,23; 4:9,10, 14
Rev.2:18
Son Of Man
Matt.11:19; 16:27,28;18:11;
20:28;26:2;26:45,64
Mark.2:28;9:9,12;10:33,45;14:21,62
Luk.5:24; 17:22,24; 18:31; 19:10;
21:36;22:48,69
Joh.5:27; 12:34; 13:31
Acts7:56
Rev.1:13; 14:14
Son Of Mary Mrk.6:3
Son of the Blessed (God, The) Mrk.14:61
Son of the Father 2 Jhn.1:3
Son of the Highest, The Luk.1:32
Spirit (Quickening) 1 Cor.15:45
Spiritual Rock, That 1 Cor.10:4
Star Out of Jacob, A Num.24:17
Stone of Stumbling & Rock of Offense, To
Both the Houses of Israel Isa.8:14
Stone Which the Builders Rejected Matt.
21:42
Stone Which the Builders Disallowed 1
Pet.2:7
Sun of Righteousness, The Mal.4:2
Sure Foundation, A Isa.28:16
Surety of a Better Testament Heb.7:22

T

Teacher Come from God, A Jhn.3:2
Tender Plant, A Isa.53:2
Tried Stone, A Isa.28:16

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True God and Eternal Life, The 1 Jhn.5:20
True Light Which Lighteth Every Man
That Cometh into the World Jhn.1:9
True Vine (The) Jhn.15:1

W
Way, Truth & Life, The Jhn.14:6
Wonderful Isa.9:6
Word, The Jhn.1:1
Word of God, The Rev.19:13
Word of Life, The 1 Jhn.1:1
Wisdom Prov.8:12
Wisdom of God, The 1 Cor.1:24
Wisdom and Righteousness and
Sanctification and Redemption 1 Cor.1:30
Witness To the People, A Isa.55:4.□

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ATTACHMENT C: CONDUCT BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

"Let love *be* without hypocrisy, shrinking from evil, cleaving to good; in brotherly love to one another, loving fervently, having led one another in honor.

As to diligence, not slothful, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in affliction, steadfastly continuing in prayer, distributing to the needs of the saints, pursuing hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse.

Rejoice with rejoicing ones, and weep with weeping ones; minding the same thing toward one another, not minding high things, but yielding to the lowly. Do not be wise within yourselves.

Repay no one evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

If *it is* possible, as far as *is* in you, being in peace with all men, not avenging yourselves, beloved, but giving place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay, says *the* Lord."

Therefore if your enemy hungers, feed him. If he thirsts, give him drink. For *in so* doing you shall heap coals of fire on his head.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."

[Romans12:1-21MKJV].□

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ATTACHMENT D: THE WALK OF FAITH

"Now faith is *the* substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

For by it the elders obtained a good report.

By faith we understand *that* the ages *were* framed by a word of God, so that the things being seen not to have come into being out of the things that appear.

By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness *that he* was righteous, God testifying of his gifts. And by it he, being dead, yet speaks.

By faith Enoch was translated *so as* not to see death, and he was not found, because God had translated him; for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

By faith Noah, having been warned by God of things not yet seen, moved with fear, prepared an ark to *the* saving of his house, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness *which is* according to faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out into a place which he was afterward going to receive for an inheritance. And *he* went out, not knowing where he went.

By faith he lived in the land of promise as a stranger, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs of the same promise with him.

For he looked for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

By faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged Him who had promised *to be* faithful.

Because of this came into being *from* one, and that *of one* having died, even as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

These all died by way of faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off. And they were persuaded of *them* and embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

For they who say such things declare plainly that they seek a fatherland.

And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from which they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

But now they stretch forth to a better *fatherland*, that is, a heavenly one.

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Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

By faith Abraham, being tested, offered up Isaac. And he who had received the promises offered up his only-begotten *son*, of whom it was said that in Isaac your Seed shall be called, concluding that God *was* able to raise him up, even from *the* dead, from where he even received him, in a figure.

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

By faith Jacob, *when he was* dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and worshiped, *leaning* upon the top of his staff.

By faith, Joseph dying remembered concerning the Exodus of the sons of Israel and gave orders concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, having been born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child. And they were not afraid of the king's commandments.

Having become great, Moses by faith refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king, for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Through faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, lest He who destroyed the first-born should touch them.

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry *land*, which the Egyptians attempting to do were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they had been compassed seven days.

By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace.

And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah; also David, and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped *the* mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the strangers.

Women received their dead raised to life again, and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings; yes, more, of bonds and imprisonments.

They were stoned, they were sawed in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute,

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afflicted, tormented.

The world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains and dens and caves of the earth.

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, did not receive the promise, for God had provided some better thing for us, that they should not be made perfect without us."

[Hebrews11:1-40MKJV].□

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ATTACHMENT E: THE WALK OF LOVE

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I have become *as* sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

And though I have prophecies, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so as to move mountains, and do not have charity, I am nothing.

And though I give out all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, I am profited nothing.

Charity has patience, is kind; charity is not envious, is not vain, is not puffed up; does not behave indecently, does not seek her own, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil.

Charity does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth, quietly covers all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Charity never fails. But if *there are* prophecies, they will be abolished; if tongues, they shall cease; if knowledge, it will be abolished.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

But when the perfect thing comes, then that which is in part will be caused to cease.

When I was an infant, I spoke as an infant, I thought as an infant, I reasoned as an infant. But when I became a man, I did away with the things of an infant.

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall fully know even as I also am fully known.

And now faith, hope, charity, these three remain; but the greatest of these *is* charity."

[1Corinthians13:1-13MKJV].□

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ATTACHMENT F : THE CHRISTIAN'S WALK WITH THE NATION ISRAEL

"I say then, Did not God put away His people? Let it not be *said*! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of *the* tribe of Benjamin.

God did not thrust out His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture said in Elijah, how he pleaded with God against Israel, saying,

"Lord, they killed Your prophets and dug down Your altars, and I am left alone, and they seek my life."

But what does the Divine answer say to him? "I have reserved to Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

Even so then, also in this present time a remnant according to the election of grace has come into being.

But if by grace, then *it is* no more of works; otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it is* of works, then it is no more of grace; otherwise work is no more work.

What then? Israel has not obtained that which it seeks, but the election obtained *it*, and the rest were hardened even as it is written, "God gave to them a spirit of slumber, eyes not seeing, and ears not hearing" until this day.

David said, "Let their table become for a snare and a trap and a stumbling block and a recompense to them.

Let their eyes be darkened so that they may not see, and their back always bowing."

I say then, Did they not stumble that they fall? Let it not be! But by their slipping away came salvation to the nations, to provoke them to jealousy.

But if their slipping away *is* the riches of *the* world, and their default is *the* riches of *the* nations, how much more their fullness?

For I speak to you, the nations; since I am the apostle of the nations, I glorify my ministry; if by any means I may provoke *those who are* my flesh to jealousy, and might save some of them.

For if their casting away *is the* reconciling of *the* world, what *is* the reception except life from *the* dead?

For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*; and if the root *is* holy, also the branches.

And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and became a sharer of the root and the fatness of the olive tree with them,

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do not boast against the branches. But if you boast, *it is* not you *that* bears the root, but the root bears you.

You will say then, The branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.

Well, because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not *be* high-minded, but fear.

For if God did not spare the natural branches, *fear* lest He also may not spare you either!

Behold then *the* kindness, and *the* severity of God; on those having fallen, severity; but on you, kindness, if you continue in the kindness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

And those also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in. For God is able to graft them in again.

For if you were cut out of the natural wild olive *tree*, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive *tree*; how much more these *being* according to nature will be grafted into *their* own olive-tree?

For I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, lest you should be wise within yourselves; that blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fullness of the nations has comes in.

And so all Israel shall be saved; as it is written, "There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob.

For this *is* My covenant with them, when I have taken away their sins."

Indeed as regards the gospel, *they are* enemies for your sakes. But as regards the election, *they are* beloved for the fathers' sakes.

For the free gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

For as you also then disbelieved God, but now have been shown mercy through their disbelief, even so these also have not believed now, so that through your mercy they may also obtain mercy.

For God has shut up all in unbelief, so that He might show mercy to all.

O *the* depth of *the* riches both of *the* wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments, and His ways past finding out!

For who has known the mind of *the* Lord, or who became His counselor?

Or who first gave to Him, and it will be repaid to him?

For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things; to Him be glory forever! Amen."

[Romans11:1-36MKJV].□

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ATTACHMENT G: JESUS CHRIST'S PRAYER FOR HIS DISCIPLES

"Jesus spoke these words and lifted up His eyes to Heaven and said, Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son so that Your Son also may glorify You, even as You have given Him authority over all flesh so that He should give eternal life to all You have given Him.

And this is life eternal, that they might know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

I have glorified You upon the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

And now Father, glorify Me with Yourself with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

I have revealed Your name to the men whom You gave to Me out of the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

Now they have known that all things, whatever You have given Me, are from You.

For I have given to them the Words which You gave Me, and they have received *them* and have known surely that I came out from You. And they have believed that You sent Me.

I pray for them. I do not pray for the world, but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

And all Mine are Yours, and Yours *are* Mine; and I am glorified in them.

And now I am in the world no longer, but these are in the world, and I come to You, Holy Father. Keep them in Your name, those whom You have given Me, so that *they* may be one as We *are*.

While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those that You have given Me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

And now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world that they might have My joy fulfilled in them.

I have given them Your Word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

I do not pray for You to take them out of the world, but for You to keep them from the evil.

They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Sanctify them through Your truth. Your Word is truth.

As You have sent Me into the world, even so I have sent them into the world.

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And I sanctify Myself for their sakes, so that they also might be sanctified in truth.

And I do not pray for these alone, but for those also who shall believe on Me through their word, that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

And I have given them the glory which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one,

I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.

Father, I desire that *those* whom You have given Me, that they may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me, for You have loved Me before *the* foundation of *the* world.

O righteous Father, indeed the world has not known You; but I have known You, and these have known that You have sent me.

And I made known to them Your name, and will make *it* known, so that the love *with* which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

[John17:1-26MKJV].□

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AUTHOR PROFILE

P. J. Stassen, born in 1947 in Randgate, South Africa, holds a B.A. degree in Industrial Psychology & Sociology (Industrial) from the University of South Africa. A former businessman who, after mandatory military conscription, spent the first years of his post-school period (from 1966 to 1984) in the field of retail (Textiles & General Dealer) in a family business begun by his father in 1964, thereafter worked at various other jobs eventually arriving in the fulfilling position of a corporate trainer with Kumba Resources (formerly Iscor: Thabazimbi Iron Ore Mine) in the Bushveldt region of South Africa, during the years 1986 to 1997. At the time of his retirement in 2013 he was engaged in Occupational Health & Safety Training in the corporate environment on a contract basis for a Johannesburg company.

P.J. Stassen and his wife are both retired and live in Centurion, South Africa after having also served in their capacities as gospel musicians (pianist & organist respectively) in churches in places like Vanderbijlpark, Bloemfontein, Thabazimbi, Sinoville, Witpoortjie, Klerksdorp and Centurion.□

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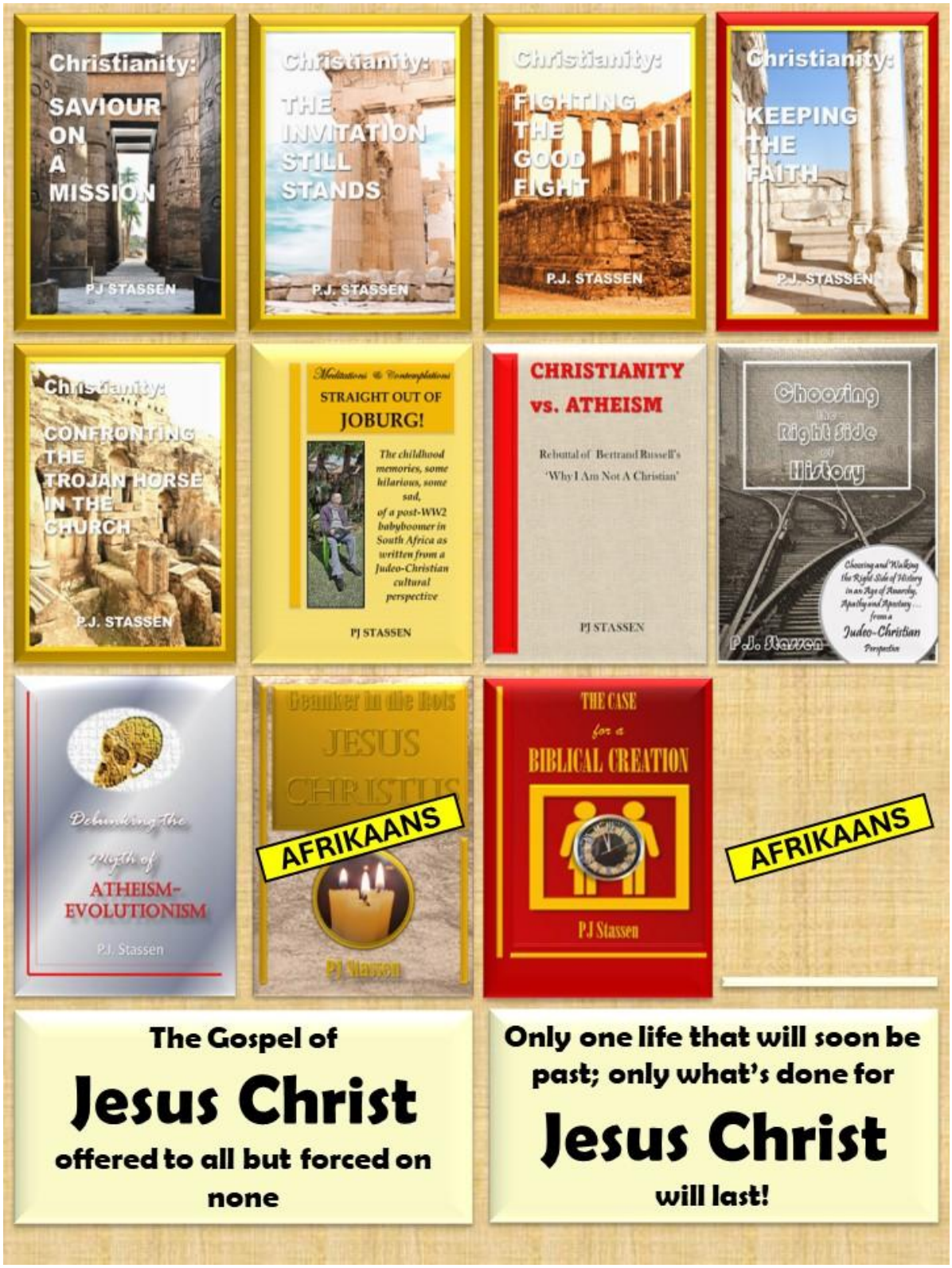

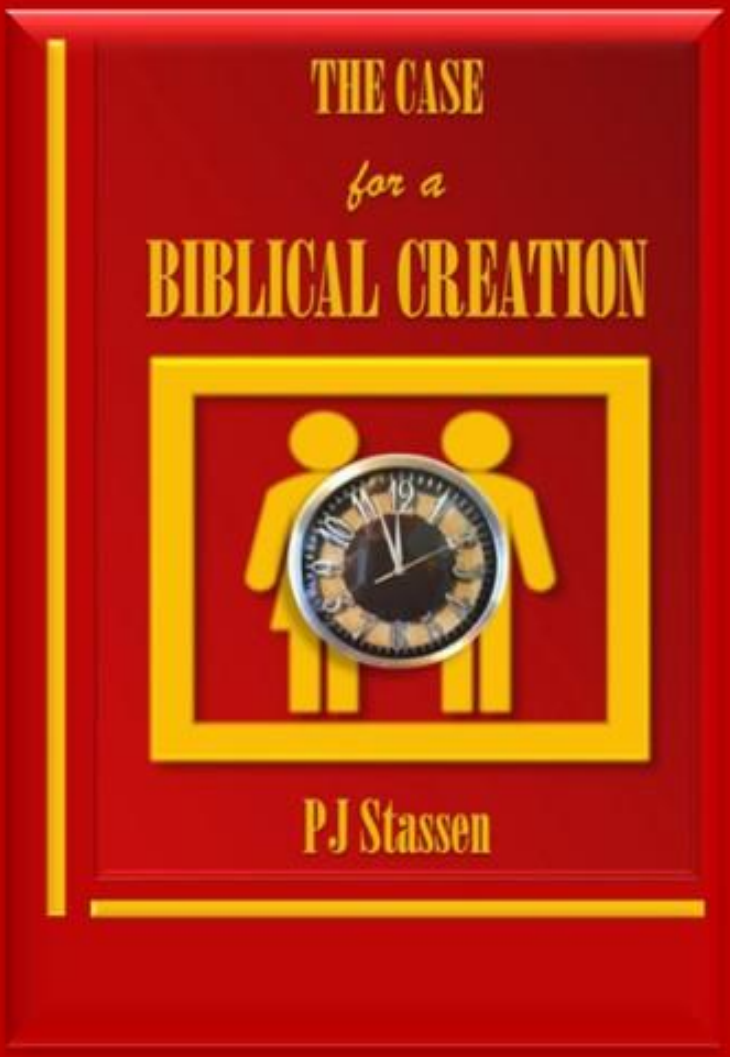

So says Jehovah, the Holy One of Israel, and the One who formed him, "Do you ask Me of things to come? Do you give command to Me about My sons, and about the work of My hands? I have made the earth, and created man on it; I *with* My hands have stretched out the heavens; and all their host have I commanded."

[Isaiah 45:11-12 MKJV].

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